

NATION

Thousands ride in honor of 7 bikers killed in NH crash

Page 7

**WAR**

12 dead, dozens of schoolchildren injured in Taliban bombing

Page 4



► **US women win 2nd straight World Cup title** » [Back page](#)

STARS AND STRIPES

平成12年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所: 索引旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価￥50

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Volume 78, No. 58 ©SS 2019

MONDAY, JULY 8, 2019

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas



Staying strong

A bomb blast left a Navy family forever changed but couldn't break the bonds of love that keep them together

By JOHN WILKENS
The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — Standing in a hotel parking lot at Legoland, Lindsey Stacy felt her cellphone vibrate. She looked at the screen, recognized the area code and smiled.

Kenton.

Her husband, a 34-year-old master technician with the Navy's bomb squad, was on a six-month

‘Life brings challenges. You keep going.’

Lindsey Stacy

Above: After being hospitalized for more than a year, Kenton Stacy is greeted by sailors from his unit upon his return home. Stacy was injured by an IED blast while he was deployed to Syria in 2017.

NELVIN C. CEPEDA/TNS

deployment in Syria, fighting Islamic State. He was due home in three weeks.

Childhood sweethearts from a small farming town in Ohio, Lindsey and Kenton had been married for 13 years. They had four children — two boys and two girls — and they'd managed the hardships — cross-country moves, frequent deployments, long separations

SEE STRONG ON PAGE 5

Army aims to recruit more infantry with big bonuses

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army is handing out bonuses up to \$40,000 for people who join the infantry as the military's largest branch works to meet its 2019 recruitment goal with only months left in the fiscal year.

Army leaders believe the bonuses will help them increase the size of the service's force and will attract more recruits to combat arms positions, said Kelli Bland, the public affairs director for U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, Ky.

Last year, the Army fell short of its recruiting goal of 76,500 by about 6,500 recruits, the first time it missed its year-end goal in 13 years. By the end of this fiscal year on Sept. 30, the Army's goal is to add 68,000 new active-duty recruits, according to Bland.

Recruits who select the infantry military occupation specialty could receive bonuses of up to \$40,000, depending on the lengths of their initial contracts, according to Bland. A recruit would have to sign a contract for a six-year commitment to receive the maximum \$40,000 bonus, Maj. Gen. Frank Muth, commander of U.S. Army Recruiting Command, told Military.com.

The Army needs to fill 3,300 infantry spots by Sept. 30 and decided in mid-May to increase the infantry recruiting bonus from the maximum \$15,000, according to Bland. The bonus is available only to recruits who leave for basic training before the end of September.

The Army also changed its recruiting plans for this year to target several large cities and is increasing efforts on social media to find potential recruits. The service has more than 470,000 active-duty soldiers, according to the Defense Department.

SEE RECRUIT ON PAGE 4

MILITARY

Iran increases uranium enrichment beyond limit

BY JON GAMBRELL
AND NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran increased its uranium enrichment Sunday beyond the limit allowed by its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, inching its program closer toward weapons-grade levels while calling for a diplomatic solution to a crisis heightening tensions with the U.S.

Iran's move, coupled with earlier abandoning the deal's limit on its low-enriched uranium stockpile, intensifies pressure on Europe to find any effective way around U.S. sanctions that block Tehran's oil sales abroad.

But the future of the accord that President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled the U.S. from a year ago remains in question. While Iran's recent measures could be easily reversed, Europe has struggled to respond, even after getting a 60-day warning that the increase was coming.

Meanwhile, experts fear a miscalculation in the crisis could explode into open conflict, as Trump already has nearly bombed Iran over Tehran shooting down a U.S. military surveillance drone.

International reaction to Iran's decision came swiftly, with Britain warning Iran to "immediately stop and reverse all activities" violating the deal, Germany saying it is "extremely concerned," and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a longtime critic of

the accord, urging world powers to impose so-called "snapback sanctions" on Tehran.

"It is a very, very dangerous step," Netanyahu said. "I'm asking you, not to provoke but out of joint knowledge of history and what happens when aggressive totalitarian regimes can cross the threshold toward things that are very dangerous to us all."

"Take the steps that you promised. Enact the sanctions."

The European Union says parties to the deal are discussing a possible emergency meeting after Iran's announcement, with EU spokeswoman Maja Kocijancic saying the bloc is "extremely concerned" about the move. There was no immediate response from the White House.

A news conference, Iranian officials said the new level of uranium enrichment would be reached later in the day, but did not provide the percentage they planned to hit. Under the nuclear deal, the cap for enrichment was set at 3.67%, a percentage closely monitored by inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog.

"Within hours, the technical tasks will be done and enrichment above 3.67% will begin," Iran nuclear agency spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said. "We predict that the IAEA measurements early tomorrow morning will show that we have gone beyond 3.67%."

The IAEA said it was aware of Iran's comments and "inspectors in Iran will report to our headquarters as soon as they verify the announced development."

Ali Akbar Velayati, an aide to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, made remarks in a video Saturday about Iran's need for 5% enrichment. Bushehr, Iran's only nuclear power plant, is now running on imported fuel from Russia that's enriched to around 5%.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif sent a letter to European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini outlining the steps it had taken, said Abbas Araghchi, a deputy foreign minister. Discussions with European powers are continuing and ministerial level talks are planned later this month, he said.

"We will give another 60-day period, and then we will resume the reduction of our commitments," Araghchi said, without elaborating.

On Saturday, French President Emmanuel Macron told his Iranian counterpart, Hassan Rouhani, in a phone call that he is trying to find a way by July 15 to resume the dialogue between Iran and Western partners.

Kamalvandi stressed that Iran will continue to use only slower, first-generation IR-1 centrifuges to increase enrichment, as well as keep the number of centrifuges in use under the 5,600-limit set by the nuclear deal. Iran has the



COURTESY OF THE IRANIAN PRESIDENCY OFFICE/AP

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani warned European nations last week that Tehran will increase its enrichment of uranium as it sees fit as the 2015 nuclear deal nears possible collapse. Iran announced Sunday it had increased enrichment beyond the limit allowed.

technical ability to build and operate advanced centrifuges that work faster, but is barred from doing so under the deal.

"For the enrichment, we are using the same machines with some more pressure and some special technical work," he said. "So we don't have an increase in the number of centrifuges for this purpose."

But Kamalvandi stressed that Iran is able to continue enrichment "at any speed, any amount and any level."

Sunday's announcement about uranium enrichment came a year after Trump withdrew the deal. Iran has repeatedly warned Europe in recent weeks that it would begin walking

away from an accord neutered by a maximalist American campaign of sanctions.

The decision to ramp up uranium enrichment came less than a week after Iran acknowledged breaking the deal's 661-pound limit on its low-enriched uranium stockpile.

Experts warn higher enrichment and a growing stockpile narrow the one-year window Iran would need to have enough material for an atomic bomb, something Iran denies it wants but the deal prevented.

Enriched uranium at the 3.67% level is enough for peaceful pursuits but is far below weapons-grade levels of 90%.

TODAY IN STRIPES

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| American Roundup | 17 |
| Business | 21 |
| Classified | 19, 23 |
| Comics/Crossword | 22 |
| Faces | 18 |
| Opinion | 20 |
| Sports | 25-32 |
| Weather | 21 |

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MILITARY

Air Force cuts a year from special duty tours



PEDRO TENORIO/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Air Force instructor Tech. Sgt. Brandon Garcia, left, watches airmen Jacob Blann, center, and Michael Aythai as they learn to service a KC-135 Stratolifter at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, in December. The Air Force is reducing by one year the length of tours for training instructors.

NATO-Russia talks yield no progress as expiration of key missile ban looms

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

High-level talks between the U.S.-led NATO alliance and Russian officials Friday failed to produce a solution in a dispute over a new Russian missile system that is putting at risk a Cold War-era arms control treaty.

"The treaty is now in danger. Unfortunately, we have not seen any signs of a breakthrough, and time is running out," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said after talks at alliance headquarters in Brussels.

During a meeting of the NATO-Russia Council, discussions centered on the soon-to-expire Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, which bans missiles with a range of between 310 and 3,400 miles.

The United States and its allies say Russia's nuclear-capable SSC-8 missile system violates the ban and could potentially strike European capitals within minutes.

While the U.S. has complained about the system dating back to the Obama administration, last year Washington warned that it would pull out of the INF treaty unless Moscow comes back into compliance. The treaty is set to expire Aug. 2.

"There are no new U.S. missiles in Europe, but there are many new Russian missiles in Europe," Stoltenberg said.

Should the 1987 landmark weapons ban break apart, NATO will take defensive countermeasures, Stoltenberg said. He declined to detail steps the allies will take, but NATO has ruled

out putting new land-based nuclear missiles in Europe.

"We will respond in a united way, coordinated and defensive," he said.

Acting Defense Secretary Mark Esper recently said the U.S. must consider new steps and will begin research on ground-based, non-nuclear, intermediate-range missiles as one possible way to counter Russia.

"The United States has upheld its end of the deal; Russia has not," Esper said at a meeting of defense ministers. "This is a dangerous and entirely avoidable reality, but Russia chose it."

Moscow has repeatedly denied that its missile system violates the INF treaty.

Allies, however, are unconvinced. Stoltenberg said accepting Russian violations without

By CHRISTOPHER DENNIS
Stars and Stripes

Tours for Air Force military training instructors have been cut from four years to three after a survey found a sharp increase in assignment fatigue after three years in the roles, officials said.

"The Air Force is committed to returning our experienced and professional workforce to their operational career fields and reducing the unique stressors associated with these special duty tours," said Maj. Gen. Timothy Leahy, 2nd Air Force commander, in a statement Tuesday.

The decision to shorten the tours came after a 2019 survey found that the number of military training leaders and instructors who lost motivation increases sharply after three years.

Survey respondents said some of the main stressors that contribute to this assignment fatigue were difficulties finding a work-life balance, having to take on professional responsibilities outside typical duty hours and time away from their operational career fields.

Shorter tour lengths are expected to increase retention and

readiness and reduce assignment-related burnout, officials said.

The change affects military training instructors, military training leaders, certain Air Education and Training Command technical instructors and state-side professional military education instructors, the Air Force said in a statement.

Airmen who are newly assigned to any of these training roles will remain in them for three years, while trainees who were already serving in one of these positions between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019, will have 30 days to choose to complete their original four-year tour or change down to three years.

The change in tour length does not apply to recruiters, Air Force officials said, citing the seven weeks required to get them trained and certified.

Also exempted from the changes are those on overseas tours or assigned to special duty assignments that are outside their military specialty if they started before July 1, 2018. They will finish their tours as scheduled, the statement said.

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Courtesy of the Russian Defense Ministry



VIRGINIA MAYO/AP

Left: The U.S. says Russia's new 9M729 ground-launched missile violates the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. Right: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Friday that "time is running out" to salvage the treaty.

have with Russia on arms control," Stoltenberg said.

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Marine accused in Tokyo assaults now faces attempted murder charge

By HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Police say they'll recommend a new charge — attempted murder — for a Marine awaiting trial for alleged assaults this past spring in Japan's capital.

Lance Cpl. Kaisai Tyree Hill, 21, has been in Japanese police custody since he was arrested May 25 on suspicion of punching a taxi driver in the face after not paying a \$7.40 fare and then assaulting others while fleeing the scene in Tokyo's Shinjuku

ward, according to local media reports.

Hill, who is assigned to the 3rd Marine Division, is due in court July 30 on bodily injury charges stemming from alleged attacks on the driver and a 22-year-old man, according to Tokyo District Court officials.

However, the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department decided Thursday that Hill should also be charged with attempted murder in connection with an attack on a 19-year-old Japan Self-Defense Force official at a Shibuya restaurant, a police

spokeswoman said. The rules of her job do not allow her to be named.

Hill put his right arm around the woman from behind and put pressure on her neck with an intent to kill her, the spokeswoman said. The woman fainted and broke a bone in her face when she fell onto the floor.

Hill entered the restaurant after the other assaults, according to a report by the Kyodo news agency.

Police planned to present their recommendation for the attempted murder charge to prosecutors on Saturday, the

spokeswoman said.

In May, the III Marine Expeditionary Force said it was aware of theft and assault allegations against Hill. The Marines didn't immediately respond Friday to questions about the latest developments in the case.

Hill came to Japan for training at Camp Fuji, according to Japan's Sankei newspaper.

Stars and Stripes reporter Seth Robson contributed to this report.
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WAR/MILITARY

Attack on Afghan intelligence office kills at least 12

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — At least 12 people were killed and scores wounded — including dozens of schoolchildren — in a truck bomb attack Sunday that targeted an Afghan intelligence headquarters.

The attack in Ghazni also injured at least 179 people, Wahidullah Mayar, spokesman for the Ministry of Public Health, said in a tweet.

Thirteen of the wounded are in critical condition, Baz Mohammad Himmam, the head of Ghazni city's government hospital, told Stars and Stripes.

The Taliban have claimed responsibility for the attack, in which a truck filled with explosives detonated at the entrance of an office of the country's main intelligence unit, the National Directorate of Security, at 8 a.m. Sunday.

Many of the wounded were students of a nearby school, the provincial health department chief, Zahir Shah Nekmal, told The Associated Press.

He said most of the injured suf-



Injured boys receive treatment in a hospital after the attack.

fered cuts and abrasions from broken glass.

The attack on the compound comes less than a week after another Taliban-claimed truck bombing in Kabul killed 10 and wounded more than 100, including many children.

The intelligence compound was in the center of Ghazni, 90 miles south of Kabul. The city lies astride the main highway between the capital and the south of the country.

Last fall, Taliban fighters seized large areas of Ghazni province's Malistan and Jaghori districts in fighting that killed hundreds on both sides and displaced thousands of civilians.

In November, four U.S. troops



Afghan security forces inspect the site of a car bomb attack in Ghazni province, central Afghanistan, Sunday.

were killed and three Americans were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded in Ghazni, marking the deadliest day for U.S. forces in the country in 2018.

As part of a push to relieve Taliban pressure on the city in June, the Afghan military recaptured Khwaja Umari, a district about 10 miles from Ghazni, which had been under insurgent control for nine months.

"The enemy has lost their strength to fight security forces on the battlefield; that is why they are attacking crowded places to harm civilians," Ahmad Khan Seerat, spokesman for Ghazni provincial police headquarters, said Sunday.

President Ashraf Ghani de-

nounced the attack, which comes as an all-Afghan two-day conference that includes the Taliban begins in Doha.

"The Taliban should know that they cannot gain leverage by the killing of civilians," Ghani said in a statement. "As they are having talks in Qatar, in Afghanistan they are coloring their hands by the blood of innocents, especially women and children, on a daily basis."

A Taliban spokesman in Doha on Sunday responded to reports asking about the attacks by stating the group investigates all claims of civilian casualties. Speaking in general terms, Suhail Shaheen in a *Tolo News* report said all those who commit violations during at-

tacks will be "prosecuted."

U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad in a tweet Sunday condemned the attacks.

"It is unfathomable to endanger children in this way," he tweeted.

In a tweet Saturday night he said the latest round of talks with the Taliban were productive.

In a visit to the Afghan capital late last month, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sept. 1 was the target date for a peace deal to end America's longest running military engagement.

Talks between the U.S. and Taliban will resume Tuesday.

Zubair Babakarkhan contributed to this report.
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US asks Germany to lend support for ISIS fight in Syria

By MICHAEL FISCHER
dpa

BERLIN — The United States has asked Germany to support the fight against remnants of Islamic State by sending ground troops to support the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF, in northeastern Syria.

Iraqi military targets ISIS on Syrian border

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's security and paramilitary forces on Sunday began a military operation along the border with Syria aimed at clearing the area of Islamic State militants, the military said in a statement.

Although Iraq declared victory against ISIS in July 2017, the extremists have turned into an insurgency and have carried out deadly attacks in the country.

The military said the operation that began at sunrise was being carried out by Iraqi troops and members of the Popular Mobilization Forces that largely consist of Iran-backed militias.

It said the operation will last several days

James Jeffrey, U.S. special envoy for Syria and the anti-ISIS coalition, wants the German government to send training forces, logistical experts and technical workers from the Bundeswehr.

"We want ground troops from Germany to partly replace our soldiers," Jeffrey told dpa and the German weekly *Welt am Sonntag*. He said he expects an answer be-

fore the end of the month.

U.S. forces have been supporting the SDF alliance that includes Kurdish YPG militia and other rebel groups. In March, SDF forces captured the last bastion of ISIS in Syria, though the militants have remained active underground.

President Donald Trump in December announced plans to pull all 2,000 U.S. sol-

diers out of northeastern Syria. He later backtracked and said that 400 will stay to help stabilize the Kurdish region, which straddles the border between Iraq and Syria.

The U.S. has since been working to secure more support from the 80 allies in the anti-ISIS coalition, including Germany, as U.S. forces begin to draw down.



An Iraqi soldier stands guard at the border with Syria, in Qaim, Iraq, in November. Iraqi forces Sunday began operations to clear ISIS militants from along the Syrian border.

and was the first phase of the Will of Victory Operation securing the western province of Anbar and the central and northern regions of Salahuddin and Nineveh.

"We press on the hands of our heroic forces that will achieve victory with the will of its heroes against the gangs of

[ISIS]," said Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi. "May God protect you and make you victorious."

ISIS once held large parts of Syria and Iraq where it declared a caliphate in 2014. The extremists lost in March the last territory they controlled in Syria.

Recruit: Other bonuses can range from \$5K to \$25K

FROM FRONT PAGE

For recruits who are not interested in the infantry but are willing to go to basic training within the next 60 days, the Army will give them bonuses from \$5,000 to \$16,000 depending on their Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery score and the date when they ship out to basic training, Bland said.

The Army is also offering critical skills bonuses up to \$25,000 for recruits who select military occupation specialties for fire control specialist or M1 armor crewman as their job, according to Bland.

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MILITARY

Strong: Injured sailor gets support from devoted wife, comrades

FROM FRONT PAGE

— that come with a career in the post-9/11 military.

This was his fourth combat tour in nine years doing one of the military's most dangerous jobs. He'd been on more than 50 missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria, defusing improvised explosive devices buried in potholes, tucked inside culverts, hidden in cars.

Being gone this time, in the summer and fall of 2017, meant missing his son Mason's sixth birthday and the trip to Legoland. At the hotel, the boy blew out the candles and wished that his dad could come home.

The next morning, when Lindsey's cellphone buzzed, she figured it was Kenton with the next-best thing: a birthday call from Syria.

It was Kenton's commanding officer. There'd been an explosion.

Nineteen months later, Lindsey still remembers how her heart sank right then, even though she'd tried to prepare herself for this possibility, for this moment, she wasn't ready.

She wasn't ready for how much damage the bomb did to Kenton.

She wasn't ready for what it would take to keep everything together while he was hospitalized week after week.

She wasn't ready for many people — relatives, friends, strangers — would step forward to help.

When she answered the phone, she didn't know it was possible to feel both cursed and blessed at the same time.

Suitable work

The third of four siblings, Kenton was a dark-haired thrill-seeker. He liked sports and BMX bicycles and bonfires he could jump over. In high school, he wrestled and pole vaulted.

Lindsey was the oldest of two children, light-haired and passionate about crafting.

Both grew up in Greenville, Ohio, a town of about 13,000 residents. They met in homeroom in sixth grade, and by the time they were high school juniors, they were a couple.

They graduated in 2002 and talked about a life together, how he would fight fires and she would work for a resort or an airline. They had their hometown roots in common, a love of the outdoors, and their Baptist faith.

One day, Lindsey saw a newspaper ad for firefighting jobs. When Kenton called the 800 number, a Navy recruiter answered. Nothing was available in fire suppression, it turned out, but there were openings in EOD, explosive ordnance disposal.

He went through the yearlong training and discovered the work, people and culture suited him. He jumped out of airplanes, scuba dived in oceans, deployed with Navy SEALs and other special forces.

He lifted weights, bulking his 5-foot-11 frame to 215 pounds, and got multiple tattoos — religious images on one arm, nautical themes on the other. He



NELVIN C. CEPEDA, THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE/TNS

Lindsey Stacy visits her husband, Kenton, at the VA Medical Center in La Jolla twice a day and cares for the couple's four young children.

often grew a thick beard while overseas.

When Kenton's first enlistment ended, he signed up again. And then again. He and Lindsey had mixed feelings about that path, but by the time he hit 10 years, they thought he might as well do 20 and get the retirement.

"He was one of the best EOD operators we had in harm's way — systematic, safe, aware of his surroundings," said Master Chief Mark Brittain, who oversees bomb units on the West Coast.

As Kenton's career unfolded, Lindsey put hers on hold to raise their family.

In May 2017 they were in San Diego, living in military housing in Liberty Station. He passed the test to make master technician, and when his unit headed off on deployment a month later, he wanted to show his new rating wasn't just window dressing.

The group split up, half to Syria and half to less-risky Bahrain. He opted for Syria.

Veterans Day

On Nov. 9, 2017, Kenton was in Raqqah, training local soldiers to disarm bombs planted by ISIS fighters a month earlier, when they fled a U.S.-led military coalition reclaiming the city.

His team went into a hospital and defused a half-dozen IEDs in the courtyard, in the basement and on the first floor. They checked the stairwell and then cleared the first two rooms on the second floor.

In the third room, Kenton didn't think the locals had been careful enough. He pointed out additional items for them to check and left. That happened two or three more times. When he went into the room again, a bomb exploded.

What triggered it is unclear, but one of the locals may have touched something. He reportedly was seen later with injuries to his hands, saying, "I'm sorry."

Staff Sgt. Justin Peck, an Army special forces medic who was outside the hospital, heard the explosion. He ran in and found Kenton unconscious, with deep wounds to his throat, chest and left leg. Peck pushed a tube down the windpipe to open an airway and covered his

torso with a chest seal. He tossed a tourniquet to other soldiers to put on the bloody leg.

As they lifted Kenton onto a litter, Peck pulled out his stethoscope to check for a heartbeat. Nothing.

Down the stairs they hurried and into a medical vehicle. It was 20 minutes to the nearest base. Peck spent all of it doing CPR.

Kenton was flown to a Bagdad hospital, then put on another airplane that took off for Texas, to the trauma facility at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

While the plane was in the air, people in the United States were pausing for the annual nod to those who have served. It was Veterans Day.

'Not this'

When she imagined something bad happening, it was Kenton getting killed. Or losing a limb.

"Not this," Lindsey said. Not in a hospital bed, comatose, paralyzed from the chest down, blinded in the left eye, missing 6 inches of his thumb.

But he was alive, and in at least one way very much himself. As the medical staff brought him out of an induced coma, they played his favorite kind of music, heavy metal. One day the nurses saw him lip-syncing to a song. It was an early sign that the damage to his brain was minimal.

We'll get through this, Lindsey told herself, and she set a goal: Bring Kenton home.

"Life brings challenges," she said. "You keep going."

Two months after the explosion, President Donald Trump delivered a State of the Union address to Congress. Peck, the Army medic who had rushed to Kenton in Syria, was in the audience.

"Kenton Stacy would have died if not for Justin's selfless love for a fellow warrior," Trump said. "Tonight, Kenton is recovering in Texas. Raqqah is liberated. And Justin is wearing his new Bronze Star, with a 'V' for Valor."

Kenton eventually was moved to a rehabilitation center in Houston, and then in late August 2018 to San Diego to be closer to his family. At the Naval Hospital in

Balboa Park and then the Department of Veterans Affairs spinal cord unit in La Jolla, physical therapists put him through daily range-of-motion exercises.

He has some movement in his hands, but little else below the chest. He operates a motorized wheelchair with a joystick held between his lips. When he talks, what emerges is barely a whisper because of damage to his vocal chords.

He can't talk for long, either, because of the strain. He tried an electrolarynx but didn't like the robotic sound. It frightened the kids too.

To hear him, Lindsey leans close to his mouth. When she's farther away, she lip-reads. He may eventually be able to use a device that tracks his eyes to spell out words on a keyboard.

"I don't think he'll be this way forever," Lindsey said. "But I don't know when our miracle will happen."

Not long ago, he told her she should move on, find another partner, build a new life.

"I'm not going to do that," she told him.

March 20 was their 15th anniversary. She gave him a photo album she'd made of their life together. He gave her charms for a bracelet. She arranged a trip to the Crab Catcher restaurant in La Jolla, where they sat at a table with a panoramic view of the coastline. She held his hand.

"We have shared so many laughs and tears," she wrote in an anniversary message on Facebook. "I promise to you, I will be your arms, I will be your legs, I will be your voice until the very end."

Word spreads

Much of America doesn't pay attention to the wars going in distant places, doesn't know about the sacrifices made daily by servicemembers and their families.

Within the military, though, this is their life, and when Kenton was injured, word spread quickly, especially in Navy EOD, a tight-knit world of about 1,800 enlisted sailors and 550 officers. Theirs is a bond forged by the work they do, underlined by a kind of gallows humor that shows up occasionally on T-shirts. "Initial success or total failure" — and bumper stickers.

"When there's an injury, we all feel it," said Brittain, the master chief. "What happened to Kenton could happen to any of us."

After the explosion, commanders assigned someone to be with Kenton in his hospital room. Every day. The assignment was rotated, one week at a time.

Except it wasn't really an assignment. People volunteered, and not just the EOD techs. Special forces team members who had been on deployments with Kenton showed up too. So did other Navy personnel.

They hung out in his room for hours at a time, ran errands for the family, played with the kids.

Some flew in from the East Coast, and some came from San Diego. Some had worked with

Kenton and knew his family. Some had never met him.

Geoff Shepley, assigned to an EOD mobile unit based in Imperial Beach, walked into Kenton's room at the VA in La Jolla in early March carrying an electric massager. Kenton had been having trouble with neck pain the day before, and Shepley thought the massager might help. He went out and bought one.

"There's a camaraderie in this group that's hard to articulate," Shepley said. "We'd do anything for each other. I know if something happened to me, they would be there for me too."

The Stacys welcomed the company. "It shows good support," Kenton whispered.

"What it tells me is they'll always be there for him," his wife said.

The caring came through in other ways, too. A parachute-rigger who had worked with Kenton and admired his strength and resilience got a tattoo in his honor. Seven Seas Roasting Co. in San Diego had "Stacy Strong" T-shirts made and sells them as fundraisers for the family. Others collected money through the sales of specially made metal bracelets, skateboards and artwork.

In Greenville, the VFW chapter raised \$10,000 for the family and sent a contingent to deliver the money in person. Help Our Heroes, a nonprofit in Connecticut, donated a minivan modified for wheelchair use, which the family quickly dubbed "The Stacy Bus."

SEE STRONG ON PAGE 6



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NATION

At least 21 hurt in blast at Fla. shopping plaza

By TERRY SPENCER
Associated Press

PLANTATION, Fla. — A vacant pizza restaurant exploded Saturday in a thundering roar at a South Florida shopping plaza, injuring more than 20 people as large chunks of concrete flew through the air.

The blast flung debris widely along a busy road in Plantation, west of Fort Lauderdale. The restaurant was destroyed, and nearby businesses and cars were damaged. Though firefighters found ruptured gas lines afterward, authorities said it was too early to determine a cause.

"We thought it was thunder at first, and then we felt the building shake and things started falling," said Alex Carver, a worker at a deli across the street from the explosion. "I looked outside and it was almost like the world was ending. It was nuts, man. It was crazy."

The explosion hurled large pieces of concrete up to 50 yards away and sent pieces of metal scattering as far as 100 yards

across the street. Carver said two of his co-workers' cars were destroyed.

At least 21 people were injured, though none of the injuries was life-threatening, police Sgt. Jessica Ryan said.

The explosion demolished the building, leaving behind only part of its metal frame. The restaurant, called PizzaFire, had been out of business for several months. The blast also blew out the windows of a popular fitness club next door at the shopping plaza in Broward County.

Jesse Walaschek had just left the fitness club with his wife and three children, ages 4, 6 and 8. They were parked near the restaurant and had just driven about 50 yards away when they heard the blast.

"It was a massive explosion like I have never experienced," he said. Walaschek said dust and debris filled the air.

"Everything just stopped. You didn't see anybody. I just wanted to get these guys safe," he said, pointing to his children. "If this had happened a minute before,

"It was a massive explosion like I have never experienced," he said. Walaschek said dust and debris filled the air.

"Everything just stopped. You didn't see anybody. I just wanted to get these guys safe," he said, pointing to his children. "If this had happened a minute before,



BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

A firefighter walks through the remains of a building after an explosion in Plantation, Fla., on Saturday.

"We thought it was thunder at first, and then we felt the building shake and things started falling. I looked outside and it was almost like the world was ending."

Alex Carver

worker at a deli across the street from the explosion

when we were getting the kids in the car, it would have been really bad."

Dozens of firefighters re-

ponded and could be seen pick-

ing through the rubble, with

dogs sniffing through the debris

to make sure people weren't trapped underneath. There were no known fatalities immediately after the explosion.

Fire department Battalion

Chief Joel Gordon said there were

ruptured gas lines when fire-

fighters arrived, but he couldn't say for certain that it was a gas explosion.

"At this point, nobody was killed," Gordon said. "Thank goodness for that. As bad as it is, it could have been a lot worse."

Strong: Military community rallies around wounded 'Husband, Father, Hero' at homecoming

FROM PAGE 5

EDO squad members in Virginia pitched in to repair the Stacy's home in Chesapeake after a tenant trashed it. They helped make other fixes so it could be sold, and the real estate agent handling the sale donated her commission.

Mixed emotions

Sometimes the enormity of it all overwhelms Lindsey, and the brave face she puts on crumbles.

"I miss him," she said. "The kids miss him. They keep asking why daddy can't get up."

Mostly what she misses are the little things. Watching him play with the children. Hearing his voice. His arms around her.

She still finds it hard to accept that the man who went off to war was not the man who came home. Why did he have to go to Syria? Why was he on the hospital-clearing assignment that day?

Why couldn't he have just had an arm blown off?

"Kenton and I talk about it," she said. "At least then he'd be up and moving around."

They also know he could have died, though, and they're grateful he didn't. In December, she and their son, Mason, went to Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego and put holiday wreaths on the headstones.

That seesaw of emotions runs all the time. Anguish over what happened, then

faith that God will make Kenton better. Exhaustion, and then energy from the encouraging words people post on #StacyStrong pages on Facebook and Instagram.

"No one can say how you should act or how you should feel," said Sarah Swinicki, a family friend and Navy vet. "Lindsey has a million things to worry about, and she is going 100 mph all the time, trying to be a wife and a mother and now a caretaker. It takes a lot of strength."

Kenton tells her to get away when she can, to recharge the batteries through her passion for travel. She went to Spain with Mason last year. She took the girls to Japan in March and to Thailand with her sister-in-law.

When she comes back, it's to a future she finds frightening.

"I don't know what's going to happen, which is maybe the scariest part," she said. "He may get better. He may be like this for the rest of his life."

Kenton rides the emotional waves too. He sometimes tells Lindsey he hates his life and can't go on. He feels like a burden. Then one of the kids sits in his lap or gives him a hug and he beams.

Homecoming

On a sunny April morning, about 80 Navy sailors dressed in green camouflage stood outside the Stacy's home in Liberty Station. Many were EOD, recognizable by the bomb insignia on their left chests.

Two "Welcome Home" banners hung

nearby, including one with a photo of Kenton in uniform and the words "Husband, Father, Hero." It had been used for earlier homecomings, when that last word meant something simpler.

Inside the house, the walls were filled with pictures of Kenton from before the explosion — sky-diving, motorcycle-riding, accepting a Sailor of the Year award, posing with family.

Slowly, the Stacy Bus made its way down the street. Lindsey was behind the wheel, wearing a blue dress and heels. She always dressed up for homecomings.

The van stopped in front of the house and everybody outside applauded. They stood silently while the side door opened, and Lindsey and a nurse maneuvered Kenton's chair onto the lift. It lowered the chair to the ground, and as Kenton motored up the driveway and turned around so he could face the crowd, everybody clapped again. He was wearing green Navy cammies too.

Brittain, the master chief, walked up to Kenton and bent down to hear his words. Then he repeated them out loud. "Thank you for coming," he said. "Everybody come over and say hi."

The sailors lined up and one by one touched him on the left shoulder as they leaned in with greetings.

"Congratulations, brother."

"Welcome home, brother."

He nodded at each of them. Later, his face lit up as members of his EOD team, Mobile Unit 11, based in Imperial Beach,

Calif., gathered around for photos. Some were scheduled to leave the next day on another deployment. Had he not been injured, Kenton would have gone too. After that, he probably would have had one more overseas deployment before wrapping up his Navy career.

Changes await

Now, a different retirement looms, a medical one. When that happens, later this year, they'll need another place to live — "a forever home," Lindsey calls it. They've been working with the Gary Sinise Foundation, which builds specially adapted houses for wounded veterans, to find land in North County.

Other changes await, and other challenges. He needs around-the-clock care and regular visits from physical therapists. Several times since the homecoming, including in recent days, an doctor sent him back to the hospital.

But on this April morning, they were celebrating a milestone and aiming for others. Lindsey has been reading up on stem cell and nerve transplant therapies, still hopeful for a miracle. She's lined up an Alaskan cruise to take together in September.

She also has the calendar circled for Nov. 9, when the EOD Warrior Foundation is hosting the fundraising run in San Diego.

Nov. 9 is a Saturday. It's also the second anniversary of the day a bomb went off in a Syrian hospital.

In the Stacy family, Nov. 9 is Alive Day.

NATION

Thousands ride in honor of 7 bikers killed

Associated Press



PHOTOS BY PAUL HAYES, THE (ST. JOHNSBURY, VT.) CALEDONIAN-RECORD/AP

Motorcyclists, including many Marines and their spouses, participate in the Ride for the Fallen 7 on Saturday in Randolph, N.H. Thousands of motorcyclists traveled through parts of New Hampshire as a tribute to the seven bikers killed in a collision with a pickup truck last month.



A veteran, left, who declined to be identified and another mourner, right, kneel at the memorial in Randolph.



Right: A participant salutes the flags honoring the victims. Far right: Some of those who traveled from as far away as California and Florida gather at the memorial site.



LACONIA, N.H. —Thousands of motorcyclists, waved on by bystanders with American flags, rode through New Hampshire on Saturday to the site where seven bikers were killed in a collision with a truck last month.

More than 3,000 bikers, some from as far away as California and Florida, participated in the 90-mile tribute trip, the Ride for the Fallen 7, from Laconia to the somber crash site in Randolph, where a memorial of flags and a color guard stood. A memorial service was held in a field just beyond the crash site.

"This is what happens when good people die," said Manny Ribeiro, president of the Jarheads Motorcycle Club, to which the victims of the crash belonged. He didn't attend the ride, saying it was "too soon" for him to be at the crash site, but he said the event and turnout was "just amazing."

The Jarheads is a New England motorcycle club that includes Marines and their spouses. On Saturday, the crowd of bikers said a prayer and sang the Marines' Hymn before heading out from Laconia, according to organizers.

The seven bikers were killed last month when a pickup truck hauling a flatbed trailer crashed into the group. The pickup driver, Volodymyr Zhukovskyy, 23, pleaded not guilty to negligent homicide and remains behind bars.

Those killed were: Michael Ferazzi, 62, of Contoocook, N.H.; Albert Mazza Jr., 59, of Lee, N.H.; Desma Oakes, 42, of Concord, N.H.; Aaron Perry, 45, of Farmington, N.H.; Daniel Pereira, 58, of Riverside, R.I.; and Jo-Ann and Edward Corr, both 58, of Lakeville, Mass.

Organizer Steve Allison told WMUR-TV that he was overwhelmed by the turnout Saturday.

"Unlike anything I ever expected, and I am humbled to my absolute core," said Allison. "I'm actually doing my best to keep from crying because I never would've expected this."

NATION

'Wake-up call'



Ron Mikulaco, right, and his nephew, Brad Fernandez, examine a crack caused by an earthquake on Highway 178, outside Ridgecrest, Calif., on Saturday.

MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

After 2 earthquakes in 2 days, California governor calls for better preparedness

By JOHN ANTczAK,
DAISY NGUYEN
AND MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ
Associated Press

RIDGECREST, Calif. — The two major earthquakes that hit Southern California should alert people across the nation of the need to be prepared for natural disasters, the state's governor said as officials expressed relief that the damages weren't worse.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said Saturday that governments must strengthen alert systems and building codes, and residents should make sure they know how to protect themselves during an earthquake.

"It is a wake-up call for the rest of the state and other parts of the nation, frankly," Newsom said at a news conference to update the public on the state's efforts to help the region hit by earthquakes on Thursday and Friday.

Friday's earthquake was the largest one in Southern California in nearly 20 years. Officials voiced concerns about the possibility of major aftershocks in the days and even months to come.

No fatalities or major injuries were reported after the magnitude 7.1 quake, which jolted an area from Sacramento to Mexico and prompted the evacuation of the Navy's largest single landingfield, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake in the Mojave Desert.

The quake struck at 8:19 p.m. Friday and was centered 11 miles from Ridgecrest, the same area of the desert where a magnitude 6.4 tremor hit on Thursday. It left behind cracked and burning buildings, broken roads, obstructed railroad tracks and leaking water and gas lines.

The light damage was largely due to the remoteness of the area where the earthquake occurred, but Newsom cautioned after touring Ridgecrest that "it's deceiving earthquake damage. You don't notice it at first."

Newsom estimated more than \$100 million in economic damage and said President Donald Trump called him to offer federal support in the rebuilding effort.



MAUREEN STRODE, THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN/AP

Carmen Morena sits on a mattress she pulled out of her home onto the lawn in Ridgecrest, Calif., on Saturday. She said she feels safer sleeping outside after the area was rocked by two earthquakes.

"He's committed in the long haul, the long run, to help support the rebuilding efforts," Newsom said of Trump.

Only 28,000 people live in the Ridgecrest area, which is sandwiched between more populated areas of Southern California and Las Vegas' Clark County. Seismologists warned that the area could see up to 30,000 aftershocks over the next six months, though many of those will be too small for people to notice.

April Hamlin said she was "already on edge" when the second quake rattled her Ridgecrest home. She and her three kids initially thought it was just another aftershock. "But it just kept on intensifying," Hamlin said. "The TV went over, hanging by the cord. We heard it break. We heard glass breakage in the other rooms, but all we could do was stay where we were until it stopped."

With the possibility of aftershocks and temperatures forecast to reach 100 degrees Fahrenheit over the next several days, of-

ficials were taking precautions.

The California National Guard was sending 200 troops, logistical support and aircraft, Maj. Gen. David Baldwin said. The Pentagon had been notified, and the entire California Military Department was put on alert, he said.

Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake said in a Facebook post that nonessential workers were evacuated and operations halted. The epicenters of both quakes were on the base, and officials said they are continuing to assess damage. Officials said most employees live off the base and in Ridgecrest, but they authorized the evacuation so those who live on base can be eligible for reimbursements.

The California Office of Emergency Services brought in cots, water and meals and set up cooling centers in the region, Director Mark Ghilarducci said.

State highway officials shut down a 30-mile section of State Route 178 between Ridgecrest and the town of Trona south-

west of Death Valley because of a rockslide and severe cracking. The move left Trona temporarily cut off. California Department of Transportation spokeswoman Christine Knadler said crews worked through the night to patch the roadway, but it remained rough and uneven.

Ron Mikulaco, 51, and his nephew, Brad Fernandez, 23, stood on 178 on Saturday looking at the cracks. The pair drove from Huntington Beach, about 170 miles southwest of Ridgecrest. Mikulaco, an amateur geologist, wanted to show his nephew "the power of Mother Nature," and they had the epicenter's latitude and longitude coordinates ready.

"We put that in the GPS, and we'll get as close as we can," Fernandez said.

In Ridgecrest, local fire and police officials said they were initially swamped by calls for medical and ambulance service. But police Chief Jed McLaughlin said there was "nothing but minor injuries such as cuts and bruises, by the grace of God."

Two building fires — one involving a mobile home — were quickly doused, McLaughlin said, and natural gas lines where leaks were reported were shut off.

In Trona, a town of about 2,000 people considered the gateway to Death Valley, fire officials said up to 50 structures were damaged. San Bernardino County Supervisor Robert Livingood said FEMA delivered a tractor-trailer full of bottled water because of damage to water lines. Newsom declared a state of emergency for the county.

Julia Doss, who maintains the Trona Neighborhood Watch page on Facebook, said the only food store in town is a Family Dollar store that was shuttered Saturday. "The only way to get food is to drive to Ridgecrest, and with only three gas stations in town I'm worried we may soon run out of fuel," Doss said.

Edill Hauksson, a Caltech seismologist, said later in the day that scientists believe the continuing sequence could produce more than 30,000 quakes of magnitude 1 or greater over six months.

NATION

Rich financier arrested on sex charges in NY

By MICHAEL R. SISAK
AND JIM MUSTIAN
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wealthy financier and registered sex offender Jeffrey Epstein was arrested Saturday in New York on new sex trafficking charges involving allegations that date to the early 2000s, according to law enforcement officials.

Epstein, a wealthy hedge fund manager who once counted as friends former President Bill Clinton, Great Britain's Prince Andrew, and President Donald Trump, was taken into federal custody and is expected to appear Monday in Manhattan federal court, three law enforcement officials told The Associated Press.

One of the officials said Epstein is accused of paying underage girls for massages and molesting them at his homes in Florida and New York.

The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the pending case.

A message was sent to Epstein's defense attorney seeking comment. Epstein is being held at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons website.

Epstein's arrest, first reported by The Daily Beast, comes amid renewed scrutiny of a once-secret plea deal that ended a federal investigation against him.

That deal, which is being challenged in Florida federal court, allowed Epstein, who is now 66, to plead guilty to lesser sex charges of soliciting and procuring a person under age 18 for prostitution.

Averting a possible life sentence, Epstein was instead sentenced to 13 months in jail. The deal also required he reach fi-



Uma Sanghvi, Palm Beach (Fla.) Post/AP

Financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, center, shown in custody on July 30, 2008, in West Palm Beach, Fla., has been arrested in New York on new charges of sex trafficking.

nancial settlements with dozens of his once-teenage victims and register as a sex offender.

Epstein's deal was overseen by former Miami U.S. Attorney Alexander Acosta, who is now Trump's labor secretary. Acosta has defended the plea deal as appropriate under the circumstances, though the White House said in February that it was "looking into" his handling of the deal.

U.S. District Judge Kenneth Marra of Florida ruled earlier this year that Epstein's victims should have been consulted under federal law about the deal, and he is now weighing whether

to invalidate the nonprosecution agreement, or NPA, that protected Epstein from federal charges.

It was not immediately clear whether the cases involved the same victims since nearly all have remained anonymous.

Federal prosecutors recently filed court papers in Florida case contending Epstein's deal must stand.

"The past cannot be undone; the government committed itself to the NPA, and the parties have not disputed that Epstein complied with its provisions," prosecutors wrote in the filing.

They acknowledged, however,

that the failure to consult victims "fell short of the government's dedication to serve victims to the best of its ability" and that prosecutors "should have communicated with the victims in a straightforward and transparent way."

The victims in the Florida case have until Monday to respond to the Justice Department's filing.

Saturday's arrest also came just days after a federal appeals court in New York ordered the unsealing of nearly 2,000 pages of records in a since-settled defamation case involving Epstein.

Warmbiers file claim for seized NK ship

By JIM MUSTIAN
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The parents of Otto Warmbier have filed a claim for a seized North Korean cargo ship, seeking to collect on a multi-million-dollar judgment awarded in the American college student's death.

The Warmbiers filed court papers Wednesday in New York federal court, saying they have a right to the assets after North Korea failed to respond to a wrongful death claim that accused it of abducting Warmbier, who had traveled there for a guided tour ahead of a study abroad program in Hong Kong.

The Warmbiers say their son was tortured after being convicted of trying to steal a propaganda poster and imprisoned for months.

He suffered severe brain damage, but doctors were unable to determine what led to it. The 22-year-old died days after being returned to the U.S. in a vegetative state in 2017.

"The Warmbiers are committed to holding North Korea account-



COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE/AP

The parents of Otto Warmbier have filed a claim for this seized North Korean cargo ship in a bid to collect on a \$500 million judgment awarded in their son's death.

able for the death of their son Otto, and will work tirelessly to seize North Korean assets wherever they may be found," Ben Hatch, an attorney for the family, said in an emailed statement.

North Korea has rejected accusations by relatives that it tortured Warmbier and said he was provided "medical treatments and care with all sincerity."

President Donald Trump has

condemned Warmbier's treatment but said earlier this year he did not believe North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un, knew about it or would have allowed it to happen.

North Korea did not respond to the wrongful death lawsuit that accused it of detaining Warmbier at the Pyongyang airport "in an attempt to extract various concessions from the United States government."

U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell ruled last year that North Korea "more likely than not bar-

barically tortured Otto to extract a false confession" and used his lengthy prison sentence as leverage to further its foreign policy objectives.

She ordered North Korea to pay \$501 million for its "barbaric mistreatment" of Warmbier, saying the student's family "experienced North Korea's brutality first-hand."

In the latest court filings, Warmbier's parents claim a right to the North Korean cargo ship, which the U.S. seized in May because it was carrying coal in violation of U.N. sanctions.

The vessel, North Korea's second-largest cargo ship, was first detained in April 2018 by Indonesia while transporting a large amount of coal. The U.S. later announced it had seized the 17,061-ton carrier in a first-of-its-kind enforcement that came amid a Tense moment in relations with North Korea.

5 people found slain at Mo. apartment building

By JEREMY KOHLER
AND VALERIE SCHREMP HAHN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS COUNTY — Five adults were found dead inside an apartment building in north St. Louis County on Saturday afternoon in an apparent homicide, St. Louis County Police said.

The adults were inside the building Friday night and a sixth person who was with them left, returned about noon Saturday, and discovered them dead, said Officer Tracy Panus.

Policewomen would not provide the gender or ages of the victims but said they were all adults. They would not say how they think the victims died but did say they were homicide victims. They were working on identifying the victims and their families.

"Somebody out there knows what happened," said St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar, who was at the scene Saturday afternoon with Panus and St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Wesley Bell. They asked that anyone with information call police.

"As you know, one homicide is too many," Belmar said. "Any time we have a scene like this where it is what appears to be five victims of a homicide, it rocks a community."

Police said they did not know

why the victims were there together and would not talk about any possible evidence left at the scene.

A crying woman at the scene said police told her that five people had been killed, and one of them was her fiance. Police told her there had been a fight, she said.

At least part of the building had been previously boarded up, and yellow crime scene tape was around the building's parking lot. Not all of the units are vacant, police said.

Family members at the scene identified one of the victims as Ronald Brewster, 40. They said he had been staying at the apartment and had been involved in drugs. Brewster's father, also named Ronald, had gone to the apartment Friday night to try to persuade him to come home.

He returned Saturday morning to pick him up for a family reunion at Tilles Park in west St. Louis County. He opened the door, saw the bodies on the floor, closed the door and called police because he knew his handprint was on the doorknob, said Loretta Brewster, the victim's sister.

Family members, some wearing purple family reunion T-shirts, consoled one another and cried at the scene on Saturday.

NATION



HOWARD LIPIN, SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE/TNS

Above: Armando Abundis, a member of the volunteer community organization Union del Barrio San Diego, keeps a watchful eye outside the car as he patrols the streets in and around San Diego's Sheltown on Thursday. Left: Members of the group stand outside one of the vehicles they use on their patrols.

'We care about our neighbors'

Volunteer patrol warns immigrants in San Diego communities of ICE presence, possible raids

By GUSTAVO SOLIS

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — Benjamin Prado finished his patrol of Southeast San Diego just before 7 a.m. Thursday as early morning shoppers stocked up on hot dogs and carne asada at the Northgate Market for the Fourth of July holiday.

Prado wasn't on the lookout for gangs, drugs or crime. He and three other volunteers were on the lookout for Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"Over the past several months, we've seen a higher presence of ICE in this area," said Prado, a member of Union del Barrio San Diego, a volunteer immigrant rights group. "Residents, neighbors and friends have called to let us know that ICE is here."

Prado and a group of about a dozen volunteers have patrolled the streets of City Heights, Linda Vista, Sherman Heights, Sheltown and Logan Heights twice a week for nearly a year.

Volunteers have gone on 97 patrols, made contact with ICE seven times and driven more than 2,300 miles since the patrols began, Prado said.

This is an example of how some immigrant communities in San Diego have responded to the Trump administration's threats of increased deportations. Union del Barrio said the patrols are a direct response to the administration's crackdown on illegal immigration, and the volunteers view themselves as the community's first line of defense.

Union del Barrio was founded in 1981 by a group of activists in Logan Heights. They speak out against police violence, support political causes and build community through educational workshops and events throughout Southern California.

The group now has headquarters in Los Angeles and San Diego. The goal of these

patrols is to look for federal immigration agents and alert communities of their presence. The volunteers want to stop immigration raids or arrests.

For Armando Abundis, who rode in the front passenger seat ready to hit record on a camera in case they found anyone, the predawn patrol was a fitting way to start Independence Day.

"Being watchful of your government is as American as apple pie," he said.

Observe and report

The volunteers don't confront or engage with immigration agents. They simply observe and report, Abundis noted.

Abundis and Prado want to stop the raids and arrests because sometimes they result in family separation and collateral arrests — meaning undocumented immigrants without a criminal background who were not the targets of the raids.

"We have to defend our families because the nucleus of our society is being destroyed systematically by a state policy," Prado said.

A normal patrol consists of a lot of driving with gas paid for by the volunteers. Teams of two drive around certain neighborhoods to look for ICE vehicles. Specifically, they look for telltale signs like parked cars with tinted windows, usually clean, mostly American-made and always with someone sitting in the driver's seat.

If you look through the front windshield, which is tinted, you can sometimes see a steel mesh cage in the backseat, Abundis noted.

If they find a car and verify that it belongs to an immigration agent, the volunteers will livestream a feed on social media and alert locals about their presence. The goal is to keep undocumented immigrants whom ICE may be targeting away from the area.

Abundis said it is important to verify before posting anything online because false reports of raids that spread on social media often create a panic throughout immigrant communities.

Thursday's patrol was uneventful. Prado and Abundis drove by apartment complexes where ICE agents have arrested undocumented immigrants and past parks, schools and businesses. But the streets were quiet on the national holiday.

Still, Prado said, it's good to show the community that they are out there.

Before Union del Barrio initiates patrols in a neighborhood, it holds meetings and workshops with local residents. Those include hosting know-your-rights workshops to teach people tactics like opening the door for ICE agents only if they have a warrant signed by a judge.

The patrols are going so well, that in April, Prado and other volunteers went to Los Angeles to teach Union del Barrio members how to conduct their own ICE-watch patrols.

Responding to threats

Here in San Diego, Union del Barrio is considering expanding to more neighborhoods or increasing the frequency of the biweekly patrols in response to threats from President Donald Trump to deport "millions of illegal aliens."

The president made slowing down the flow of illegal immigration one of his central campaign promises in 2016 and has increased immigration enforcement during his first term. The administration maintains that tougher laws and enforcement, including a border wall, could help deter migrants from entering the United States without proper documentation.

On June 17, Trump tweeted, "Next week ICE will begin the process of removing millions of illegal aliens who have been

illegally found their way into the United States. They will be removed as fast as they come in."

The enforcement action specifically targeted 2,000 people who had missed immigration court dates or had already been served deportation orders.

San Diego's local ICE office issued this statement Friday:

"ICE conducts targeted enforcement operations with the safety of the community (in which) it conducts them at the forefront. Targeted enforcement operations are a necessity for ICE to ensure the integrity of the immigration system. Law enforcement operations are sensitive, any interaction with the public by ICE is done in a professional and courteous manner to ensure both the safety of the officer and the community."

When asked about the planned raids by ABC News, ICE acting Director Mark Morgan said their purpose was to comply with the rule of law.

"This is not about fear," Morgan told ABC. "No one is instilling fear in anyone. This is about the rule of law and maintaining integrity of the system."

However, the day before the date of the raid, Trump said he'd delay it by two weeks to give lawmakers a chance to pass legislation that will solve the "asylum and loop-hole problems at the southern border."

Via tweet, the president warned that if legislators didn't get it done, "Deportations start!"

Even if the raids don't materialize, Prado said, the damage is already done.

People are scared, which is why he and the other volunteers will continue to patrol the streets at 5 a.m. before heading to their day jobs and pay for the gas money out of their own pockets.

"It's just part of the sacrifice that we do because at the end of the day, we care about our neighbors," Prado said.

NATION



WILLY SANJUAN, INVISION/AP

Stevie Wonder, shown performing at a benefit concert in November 2018, said he will receive a kidney transplant this fall.

Stevie Wonder to get kidney transplant

BY GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON — Stevie Wonder surprised concertgoers in London on Saturday night by announcing that he will take a break from performing so he can receive a kidney transplant this fall.

The 69-year-old music legend made the announcement after performing "Superstition" at the end of a packed British Summer Time concert in London's sprawling Hyde Park.

He said he was speaking out to quell rumors and sought to reassure fans that he would be OK.

"I'm going to be doing three shows then taking a break," he said. "I'm having surgery. I'm going to have a kidney transplant at the end of September this year."

He said a donor has been found and that he would be fine, drawing cheers from a devoted crowd of tens of thousands that stretched out from the stage as far as the eye could see.

"I came here to give you my love and to thank you for yours," he said. "You ain't gonna hear no rumors about us. I'm good."

He did not provide additional information about his kidney illness. There had been a recent

report that Wonder was facing a serious health issue.

A representative for Wonder didn't immediately respond to a request Saturday for details about his health. He has kept an active schedule, including performing recently at a Los Angeles memorial service for slain rapper Nipsey Hussle.

Wonder, who has received more than two dozen Grammy Awards, has produced a string of hits over a long career that began when he was a youngster who performed as Little Stevie Wonder. His classic hits include "You Are the Sunshine of My Life" and "Living for the City."

Wonder seemed in top form throughout the concert, performing a series of his hits and paying tribute to musical heroes including Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye and John Lennon, performing a stirring rendition of the latter's "Imagine" near the end of the show.

He did seem less ebullient than in the past and made his health announcement in a somber tone with a severe look on his face. But he was smiling as he left the stage with the band playing the memorable conclusion of "Superstition" one final time.

Outcry prompts Phoenix to roll out police body cameras

BY ANITA SNOW
Associated Press

PHOENIX — A Phoenix police officer yelled obscenities and forced an unarmed black man suspected of shoplifting up against a patrol car. Another aimed his gun at the man's pregnant fiancee, ordering her out of the car with the couple's two small children.

Dramatic video of the confrontation stirred outcry last month, and it came from bystanders' cellphones, rather than from officer-worn body cameras. The police weren't wearing them.

Although body-worn cameras are becoming a police standard nationwide, Phoenix was among the last big departments to adopt their widespread use. Leaders of Phoenix — the fifth-largest U.S. city, with about 1.6 million people — quickly moved to fix that after the video emerged.

"Every single precinct will have body-worn cameras by August," Mayor Karin Gallego said after the May confrontation she called "completely inappropriate and clearly unprofessional."

The couple said their 4-year-old daughter took a doll from a store without their knowledge and rejected police suggestions that they stole too. No charges were filed.

The couple has filed a \$10 million legal claim against the city, alleging civil rights violations.

The department has had several hundred cameras for years, but it wasn't until February that city leaders approved \$5 million to buy and maintain 2,000 devices for a force approaching 3,000 officers. About 950 cameras were being distributed last week.

The purchase followed a city-commissioned National Police Foundation study that says Phoenix police had more officer-involved shootings than any other U.S. department last year. A separate database that tracks fatal shootings by police showed Phoenix officers also killed more people than any other agency in 2018.

The use of body cameras has burgeoned over the past decade following several high-profile killings of black people by mostly



Ross D. FRANKLIN/AP

Phoenix Police Department Sgt. Kevin Johnson shows off the new Axon Body 2 body camera after demonstrating to fellow officers how the camera works last week in Phoenix.

white officers in places such as Ferguson, Mo., and Baltimore.

When a Missouri grand jury in 2014 decided not to charge a white officer who fatally shot an unarmed black man, Michael Brown, 18, his family called for police nationwide to use cameras.

Cameras are supposed to promote accountability and transparency and reduce officers' use of force. A survey by the Washington-based Police Executive Research Forum says U.S. law enforcement agencies overwhelmingly support using them. A third now use cameras and nearly 47% plan to adopt them.

"When body-worn cameras first came out, there was some trepidation among officers that use of cameras would have unintended consequences," said Chuck Wexler, the group's executive director. "The reality is working cops now feel it is an essential part of defending what they do."

The New York Police Department, the largest in the U.S., completed its rollout of some 20,000 body cameras early this year.

Around the same time, Phoenix police said they would speed up camera distribution after the

study said they opened fire more than any other department last year.

"In 2018, Phoenix police faced more subjects armed with guns (or simulated guns) than in years past, and were no more likely to shoot at an unarmed subject than in years past," the National Police Foundation report said.

It's legal to carry a gun in plain sight in Arizona. The study said Phoenix had 44 police-involved shootings in 2018, including 23 that were fatal. That compared with 21 total shootings in 2017, 25 in 2016 and 17 in 2015.

The study referenced The Washington Post's "Fatal Force" database, showing Phoenix far outpaced other departments in deadly shootings by police. No other agency registered more than 14 last year.

The recent video of the black couple left many in Phoenix's communities of color clamoring to describe their own encounters, revealing distrust, fear and resentment of police. They have called for wider use of body cameras and an independent review board to let residents weigh in on police behavior.

Man arrested after stealing firetruck, leading police on chase

BY ERIN BALDASSARI
AND HARRY HARRIS

(Walnut Creek, Calif.) East Bay Times

OAKLAND, Calif. — A man stole an Oakland firetruck Saturday and led police officers on a wild chase through three counties before finally being arrested near Vacaville.

Around 10:44 a.m. Saturday, a good Samaritan called the police after noticing a man who did not look like a fire department employee milling around an East Oakland fire station while the crew was

out at another emergency, said Oakland Fire Department Chief Nick Luby.

The man climbed into a wild lands truck, which Luby said the department uses to douse fires in area that larger firetrucks can't access, and made it out of Fire Station 23.

"We call it a patrol truck," he said. "It's small and can go on fire trails."

Early dispatch reports indicated California Highway Patrol officers chased the truck through Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano counties, following the truck from Highway 24 onto Interstate 680 and In-

terstate 80 before it exited onto Interstate 505.

CHP officers ultimately used spike strips to slow the vehicle, which stopped near Vacaville, Luby said.

Officers arrested the driver at 11:45 a.m., according to Oakland police. The man's name has not yet been released.

There was no damage to the truck other than fire damage, Luby said.

There was some damage to the doorway of the station's garage, which Luby said likely occurred when the truck was driven out.

No injuries were reported.

"It ended as well as could have hoped considering the situation," he said.

It's still not clear, however, how the man made it into the fire station.

Luby said that normally, fire stations are locked when the crew leaves. The truck keys are kept in the vehicle, though, which Luby said enables the department to respond more quickly to emergencies.

To his knowledge, Luby said, it's the first time in his 20 years working for the department that a truck has been stolen.

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NATION

Democrats embrace religion in campaign

BY ELANA SCHOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When 10 Democratic presidential candidates were pressed on immigration policy during their recent debate, Pete Buttigieg took his answer in an unexpected direction: He turned the question into a matter of faith.

Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Ind., accused Republicans who claim to support Christian values of hypocrisy for backing policies separating children from their families at the U.S.-Mexico border. The GOP, he declared, "has lost all claim to ever use religious language again."

It was a striking moment that highlighted an evolution in the way Democrats are talking about faith in the 2020 campaign. While Republicans have been more inclined to weave faith into their rhetoric, particularly since the rise of the evangelical right in the 1980s, several current Democratic White House hopefuls are explicitly linking their views on policy to religious values.

The shift signals a belief that their party's eventual nominee has a chance to win over some religious voters who may be turned off by President Donald Trump's abrasive rhetoric and questions about his character.

"The bar for Democrats on reaching broad swaths of the American faith community is lower than ever because of Donald Trump," said Michael Wear, who led White House faith out-



ROBERT FRANKLIN, SOUTH BEND (IND.) TRIBUNE/AP

South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg, right, bows his head in prayer during a town hall meeting in South Bend on June 23. Some Democrats are turning to their faith to support their agendas and appeal to religious swing voters.

reach during President Barack Obama's first term and reelection. Wear said Democrats have an opportunity to show faith voters they don't just "have a seat at the table; the values table is our table."

Buttigieg, an Episcopalian who married his husband in his home church, often invokes his faith on the campaign trail and has tangled over values with Vice President Mike Pence, an evangelical Christian. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, a practicing

Methodist and former Sunday school teacher, recently declared that all of her expansive policy proposals "start with a premise that is about faith" as she cited a favorite biblical verse about Jesus urging care for "the least of these." New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker has called Jesus "the center of my life" and exorcites Trump for what he calls "moral vandalism."

Regardless of Democrats' changing tactics, Trump and Republicans are all but certain

to maintain their grip on one of the most influential religious voting blocs, white evangelicals; 8 in 10 who self-identified with that group voted Republican in the 2018 midterm elections, according to The Associated Press' VoteCast survey. Though Trump rarely discusses his own religious identity and isn't seen as particularly devout, he's won the loyalty of many evangelicals through his administration's successful push for conservative judicial nominees and focus on anti-abortion policies.

Democrats have more appeal, and opportunity, with other religious voters. VoteCast showed Democrats captured half of self-described Catholics and 42% of Protestants in last year's midterms.

Democrats have long had to walk a tightrope with religious voters, given that their support for abortion and LGBTQ rights is at odds with leaders of several prominent denominations.

The 2020 candidates aren't shying away from these differences. Warren, for example, opposes the United Methodist Church's prohibition on same-sex marriages and LGBTQ pastors, which has prompted more progressive congregations to weigh a split.

The Democratic candidates come from a variety of religious backgrounds and differ in how they speak about faith on the campaign trail.

New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand identifies as Catholic but regularly attends evangelical ser-

vices as well as Mass, her campaign said. Former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke said in a statement to the AP that he was raised attending Catholic Mass, but, "As an adult, I have found a stronger connection with God outside of the church."

California Sen. Kamala Harris and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders speak about their faith less frequently than some of the others. But Sanders — who would be the first Jewish president — recently joined liberal Jewish activists for a picture that identified them as Jews against Israel's policies toward Palestinians.

Former Vice President Joe Biden has openly struggled to reconcile his Catholic faith with his party's more liberal position on abortion. In the 1970s, he said the Supreme Court went "too far" in legalizing abortion nationwide and later said abortion should be legal but not government-funded. He reversed that position only last month under intense pressure from his Democratic opponents, drawing a public reprimand from the archbishop of Philadelphia.

But Biden flouts his church's hard-line positions against homosexuality and same-sex marriage. "We are all God's children," he explained last month at a Human Rights Campaign gala in Ohio.

Booker speaks often about his faith as he campaigns. His home church is Metropolitan Baptist in Newark, N.J., and his campaign said he attends services whenever he isn't traveling to early voting states.

Poll: Trump approval rises, aided by strong economy

BY DAN BALZ
AND EMILY GUSKIN
The Washington Post

Aided by a strong economy and perceptions that he has dealt with it effectively, President Donald Trump's approval rating has risen to the highest point of his presidency, though a slight majority of Americans continue to say they disapprove of his performance in office, according to a Washington Post-ABC News poll.

The survey highlights the degree to which Trump has a narrow but real path to reelection. His approval rating on most issues is net negative, and more than 6 in 10 Americans say he has acted in ways that are un-presidential since he was sworn into office.

Still, roughly one-fifth of those who say he is not presidential say they approve of the job he is doing, and he runs even against four possible Democratic nominees in hypothetical general election matchups. He trails decisively only to former vice president Joe Biden.

Trump's approval rating among voting-age Americans stands at 44%, edging up from 39% in April, with 53% saying they disapprove

of him. Among registered voters, 47% say they approve of Trump while 50% disapprove. In April, 42% of registered voters said they approved while 54% said they disapproved.

More than a year before the general election and long before the Democrats will select their nominee, the 2020 contest is playing out against the backdrop of an electorate deeply divided over the president, with a small percentage of registered voters up for grabs. Both Democrats and the president enjoy solid bases of support, but more Americans say it is extremely important that Trump not win reelection than those who say it is extremely important that he is reelected.

The survey highlights significant differences between women and men in their candidate preference, a continuation of a trend that has been evident throughout Trump's presidency. Those gender differences shaped the outcome of the 2018 midterm elections when Democrats captured the House with strong support among women.

In the new survey, men clearly favor Trump against four of five potential Democratic challengers (they are evenly divided over

The economy is the lone issue in the survey where Trump enjoys positive numbers, with 51% saying they approve of the way he has dealt with issues.

Washington Post-ABC News poll

a Biden-Trump contest) while women back all five by strong margins.

The economy is the lone issue in the survey where Trump enjoys positive numbers, with 51% saying they approve of the way he has dealt with issues. A smaller 42% disapprove of his handling of it, down slightly from 46% last October. Asked how much credit Trump deserves for the state of the economy, 47% say a "great deal" or a "good amount," while 48% say he deserves "only some" or "hardly any."

When asked the same question in a January 2018 survey, a smaller 38% of Americans gave him credit for the economy while 56% said he deserved little or none. In that 2018 poll, 19% said he deserved a great deal of credit for the economy.

On the eight other issues measured, Trump gets negative rat-

ings, ranging from a net negative of seven points on taxes to a net negative of 33 points on climate change. More than half of all Americans disapprove of his handling of immigration, health care, abortion, gun violence and "issues of special concern to women."

The survey was conducted while Trump was attending a meeting of world leaders in Japan, where trade tensions with China were eased. By 55% to 40%, Americans disapprove of his handling of foreign policy.

The survey matched Trump against five possible Democratic nominees: Biden; Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.; Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif.; Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.; and South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

Among registered voters, only Biden emerges with a clear advantage, leading Trump by 53% to 43%. Trump runs very close

against Harris (46% Trump, 48% Harris) and Sanders (48% Trump, 49% Sanders), and he runs even against Warren (both at 48%) and Buttigieg (both at 47%).

Among the broader pool of voting-age adults, all five Democrats hold at least a slight advantage over Trump.

Across the five matchups against named possible Democratic nominees, 41% of registered voters always choose the Democrat, and 40% always choose the president.

Gender and education are clear fault lines in the electorate as voters think about 2020 choices. Trump receives between 38% and 42% support from women when matched against the five potential Democratic challengers.

Trump wins majority support among white voters, but he does far better with those who do not have college degrees than those who do, a pattern that emerged strongly in the 2016 election and continues to define the political divisions today.

Nonwhite voters favor all Democrats by a wide margin over Trump; 76% of all nonwhite voters say they would support Biden if the election were held today, as would 85% of black voters.

NATION

Mich. amateur football offers risks, rewards

With little regulation, Battle Creek players lay it all on the line

By NICK BUCKLEY
Battle Creek (Mich.) Enquirer

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. — Demetrius Byrd picked up a used football helmet and strapped it on.

The helmet was once all black but now resembled a marble, with streaks of paint left from collisions on the gridiron.

It was the first time in nearly a decade the 27-year-old had suited up for football practice.

"It's always something I've wanted to do," Byrd, who showed up for a mid-season practice of the Battle Creek Assassins, part of the adult amateur Great Lakes Football League, told the *Battle Creek Enquirer*. "Just a love of the game. To play, that's all I want to do; I just want to play."

Unlike in high school or college, Byrd didn't need to take a physical, try out or sign a waiver. He showed up and played, holding his own during full-contact drills with the seven other players who made it to practice.

"I can't play Saturday," he told his new teammates as he caught his breath. "I have a baby on the way Saturday."

His daughter arrived at 3:20 p.m. on June 22. By 5 p.m., he was on the road to play defensive tackle and center in the game, a 61-0 loss to the Toledo Thunder.

"It was kind of brutal," he admitted. "Them boys hit. Football isn't nothing to play with. They are for real out there."

Joining the gritty world of adult amateur football isn't a decision to be taken lightly.

Players aren't paid. They are responsible for their own insurance, and some take the field without it. Emergency personnel are not required at games.

Leagues like the GLFL have rules and bylaws that mimic the college and pro game, but adult amateur football has no umbrella regulating body in Michigan like high school has with the MHSAA or college has with the NCAA.

"Minor league football is a very scary endeavor," said Robbie Hattan, who spent seven years in adult football as a coach and later as co-owner of the Battle Creek Coyotes. "These guys have to go to work Monday, and I saw some very devastating injuries."

It's up to the players to protect themselves. And some play against their better judgment.

Injuries are understood to be part of the sport. But they can be catastrophic, such as when a player died as the result of injuries sustained in a 2012 preseason game of the Crossroads Football League.

"The team in the league have them sign waivers. Is that going to hold up in court? They don't get notarized or signed by a lawyer," said Hattan, now the head football coach at Colon High School. "Most teams didn't even carry insurance. We had some if anybody came up; it was secondary insurance. Most teams did not offer it."

Hattan injured his shoulder after being thrust into action as an emergency quarterback while coaching the Battle Creek Blaze.

"Our starting QB had to do something and our backup, 30 minutes before the game, messaged and said, 'I don't feel like playing,'" Hattan said. "I had to suit up because I'm the only one that knows the



NICK BUCKLEY, BATTLE CREEK (MICH.) ENQUIRER/AP

Demetrius Byrd, of Jackson, tries on a helmet before joining the Battle Creek Assassins on June 20 for football practice at the Burma Center in Battle Creek, Mich.

offense. We won and I threw three touchdowns, but I tore my shoulder."

The Blaze was co-founded by Jason Doubleday in 2008 in memory of his best friend, who had died from cancer the previous year. The organization used football to raise money for local cancer victims.

At Doubleday's request and with Hattan as owner, the team rebranded and became the Battle Creek Coyotes in 2014, the year they joined the Crossroads Football League.

Hoping to legitimize the sport, Hattan and his business partner, John Jackson, began running the Minor League Football Alliance. It absorbed three existing leagues, including the Crossroads Football League, and had 20 teams at its peak.

Hattan said his team had EMTs and police at every game, and their home fields at Athens High School and Harper Creek High School were insured.

The Coyotes were more organized than most, and Hattan said he struggled to get other Minor League Football Alliance teams to hold themselves to the same standard.

Like many football minor leagues, it wasn't fated to survive.

"John and I had a vision for this league, for our teams to benefit the communities, record stats, have good websites and a marketing campaign and do the things that make it legit, minor league football," Hattan said. "It was met with resistance. We called it, 'Just show up and play ball,' and you can't do that. We folded the MLFA, and John and I both got out of pro football."

Battle Creek has a long history with semi-pro and adult amateur football.

The Battle Creek Area Braves launched in 1980, followed by the Springfield Bullets in 1982 as members of the Michigan Charity Football League. A women's team, the Battle Creek Rainbows, started in 1981. The Michigan Griffins/Rattlers and Battle Creek Raga arrived in 2001. The Battle Creek Crunch played one season of indoor football at Kellogg Arena in 2006. Then came the Blaze (2008) and the Coyotes (2014).

For the Braves, which operated



SETH GRAVES, BATTLE CREEK (MICH.) ENQUIRER/AP

Calhoun County Panthers owner, coach and player Dionshan Starling gives instructions for a drill during football practice on June 26 at Northwestern Middle School in Battle Creek.

until 1990, each team struggled to garner enough community support to have staying power.

Despite the struggles of past adult football teams, the Assassins and Calhoun County Panthers hope to carve out their own niche in the city.

The Panthers were formed by former Assassins players who were dissatisfied with the direction of the team.

"I didn't like a lot of the structure at the Assassins," said Dionshan Starling, owner, player and coach for the Panthers. "So when there is something you don't like, walk away and do something else, start your own."

Starling started playing adult amateur football in 2008 as a way to set an example for his sons, he said. Now 54, he said he'll likely play his last game this season and wants to focus on laying the foundation for a franchise he envisions growing in the future.

"You have children who can't afford to play football or have a way," Starling said.

"I want to have a traveling team among the league teams. Give some of that energy back to the kids. We can start our youth team, a traveling team, and turn some of these players into coaches."

The Panthers are coached by Corey Mid-dough, 27, an Athens native who has never been a head coach before this year.

"The biggest challenge is me being 27 and trying to coach men older than me," he said. "It's hard to get respect and the vision from other grown men when you are even younger than some of them."

Unlike at the high school, college or NFL level, there are few repercussions for subordinate players in adult amateur football short of a benching or getting kicked off the team.

The Panthers' roster consists mainly of players with college or adult amateur experience, they also have teenage players who would like more recruiting exposure. But even high school playing experience is not a requirement.

WORLD

Protesters in Hong Kong target Chinese visitors

BY KEN MORITSUGU
AND ALICE FUNG
Associated Press

HONG KONG — Tens of thousands of people, many wearing black shirts and some carrying British colonial-era flags, marched in Hong Kong on Sunday, targeting a mainland Chinese audience as a month-old protest movement showed no signs of abating.

Chanting "Free Hong Kong" and words of encouragement to their fellow citizens, wave after wave of demonstrators streamed by a shopping district popular with mainland visitors on a march to the high-speed railway station that connects the semi-autonomous Chinese territory to Guangdong and other mainland cities.

Hong Kong has been riven by huge marches and sometimes disruptive protests for the past month, sparked by proposed changes to extradition laws that

would have allowed suspects to be sent to the mainland to face trial. Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam suspended the bill and apologized for how it was handled, but protesters want it to be formally withdrawn and for Lam to resign.

Organizers said 230,000 people marched on Sunday, while police estimated the crowd at 56,000.

"We want to show our peaceful, graceful protest to the mainland visitors because the information is rather blocked in mainland," march organizer Ventus Lau said. "We want to show them the true image and the message of Hong Kongers."

Chinese media have not covered the protests widely, focusing on clashes with police and damage to public property.

As the crowd broke up Sunday night, a few hundred remained and taunted police who had retreated behind huge barriers set up outside the railway station



Protesters march with placards, some of which read "No Withdrawal, No dispersal" and "Independent investigations," in Hong Kong on Sunday.

while others moved to Canton Road, a street lined with luxury boutique stores.

The march was the first major action since two simultaneous protests July 1, the 22nd anniversary of the 1997 return of Hong Kong from Britain to China.

One of those protests, a massive march through central Hong Kong, drew hundreds of thousands of people.

It was overshadowed, however, by an assault on the legislature building by a few hundred demonstrators who shattered thick

glass walls to get in and then wreaked havoc for three hours, spray-painting slogans on the walls, overturning furniture and damaging electronic voting and fire prevention systems.

Sunday's march was the first protest against the extradition legislation to take place on the Kowloon side of Hong Kong harbor. The previous ones were on Hong Kong Island, the city's business and government center.

"This is our fourth march because we think this government is not taking care of Hong Kong,"

said Dan Lee, who joined with his wife and their three children. "We need to save Hong Kong and we need to come out for our future generations."

The extradition legislation has raised concerns about an erosion of freedoms and rights in Hong Kong, which was guaranteed its own legal system for 50 years after its return to China in 1997.

The protesters are also calling for the direct election of Hong Kong's leader. Lam was chosen by an elite committee of mainly pro-Beijing electors.

US bomb from WWII defused in Germany

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — A 1,100-pound World War II bomb was defused near the Frankfurt headquarters of the European Central Bank hours after thousands of people were evacuated from the surrounding district Sunday.

City officials called on about 16,500 people to leave their homes in the Ostend area east of downtown Frankfurt on Sunday morning before emergency workers tackled the American bomb, which was found during construction work last month.

Authorities had already moved

some people out of a nursing home Saturday.

More than 70 years after the end of the war, unexploded bombs are frequently found in Germany. Disposing of them sometimes entails large-scale precautionary evacuations such as the one on Sunday.

The defusing operation was completed by mid-afternoon, according to the city's fire service, about two hours after police verified that no one was left in the area.

Officials chose Sunday to defuse the bomb to allow preparation and to minimize disruption in Frankfurt's financial center.



Thousands of people were evacuated from the area near the European Central Bank prior to the defusing of a WWII bomb in Frankfurt, Germany, on Sunday.

MICHAEL PROBST/AP

UK diplomat criticizes Trump in leaked memos

Associated Press

LONDON — Leaked diplomatic cables reveal that Britain's ambassador to the United States regards President Donald Trump's administration as inept, hobbled by infighting and unlikely to improve.

The memos released on Sunday contain highly critical comments from Ambassador Kim Darroch about the current state of Trump's government. "We don't really believe this administration is going to become substantially more normal; less dysfunctional; less unpredictable; less faction riven; less diplomatically clumsy and inept," Darroch wrote in one of a series of leaked documents covering the period from 2017 to the present.

Darroch said there are doubts about whether the White House "will ever look competent" and that the only way to communicate with the president is by being simple and blunt.

He said that while Trump had been "dazzled" by British pageantry on a state visit hosted by Queen Elizabeth II in June, the successful visit would not lead to a fundamental shift in Trump's priorities.

"This is still the land of America First," he wrote.

Pope's OK of miracle moves archbishop closer to sainthood

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis has approved a miracle bringing the late American Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, known for his revolutionary radio and TV preaching, closer to sainthood.

The Vatican announced the move Saturday, which clears the way for beatification. It comes just weeks after a New York court ruling allowing Sheen's niece to bury him in Peoria, Ill., where he was ordained, ending years of litigation and allowing the process for sainthood to resume.

Sheen, who died in 1979, was known for his on-air evangelism. He started in 1930 on

NBC radio with a weekly Sunday program titled "The Catholic Hour" and expanded to television in 1950 with NBC's "Life is Worth Living," which had a weekly following of more than 30 million viewers.

No date has been given for beatification, but the Peoria Diocese said Saturday it is beginning preparations for the celebration, which would be held in Peoria.

Peoria Bishop Daniel Jenky said he's grateful the Vatican acted quickly after the transfer of Sheen's remains and is hopeful Francis will set a date for beatification soon.

"It is truly amazing how God continues to work miracles," Jenky said.

Sheen is believed to have interceded after a baby was born in 2010 and showed no signs of life. The diocese says family and friends prayed to the late Sheen to intercede, and the baby was transferred to a Peoria hospital near the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, where Sheen was ordained in 1919 and is now entombed.

The diocese says that after 61 minutes without vital signs, the baby's heart began beating and the child breathed normally. The infant is now a healthy young child.

The diocese conducted a canonical investigation and submitted its findings to the Vatican in 2011.

WORLD

Migrants on banned rescue boat disembark

ROME — Migrants on a rescue boat that docked in the Italian island of Lampedusa against an explicit ban have disembarked after the vessel was impounded.

Humanitarian group Mediteranea Saving Humans said in a tweet late Saturday that more than 40 migrants on board were "finally allowed to disembark to receive assistance."

It confirmed that the vessel was been seized by police and its captain put under investigation for aiding illegal immigration.

The vessel had been banned from docking in Italy with a ministerial decree by Italy's hard-line Interior Minister Matteo Salvini.



AP

Melania Trump sculpture

Melania Trump statue unveiled in Slovenia

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia — The likeness of Melania Trump has been carved in wood in her native Slovenia.

A life-size sculpture of the U.S. first lady has been unveiled in her hometown of Sevnica, drawing mixed reactions from the locals.

The rustic figure was cut from the trunk of a lime tree showing her in a blue dress like the one she wore at Donald Trump's presidential inauguration. Her face is depicted in a naive local style.

It is the work of American artist Brad Downey, who is showing photos of the statue in an exhibition in the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana.

Royal baby christened at private ceremony

LONDON — The youngest member of Britain's royal family, Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor, was christened at Windsor Castle on Saturday in a private ceremony.

The 2-month-old son of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex was baptized in the castle's private chapel by Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, head of the Church of England. Palace officials said that in keeping with royal tradition, Archie wore a lace-and-satin christening gown — a replica of one made for Queen Victoria's eldest daughter in 1841 — that was also used for his cousins Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis.

He was sprinkled with water from the River Jordan at an ornate silver baptismal font that has been used in royal christenings for more than 150 years.

From The Associated Press

3 gored at Pamplona

2 Americans among those hurt in opening bull run

BY ALVARO BARRIENTOS AND ARITZ PARRA
Associated Press

PAMPLONA, Spain — Five people were hospitalized after the opening bull run of this year's San Fermin festival in Pamplona, including two Americans and a Spaniard who were gored by bulls, officials in the northern Spanish city said Sunday.

A man, 46, from San Francisco, was gored in the neck in the city's bullring at the end of the 930-yard course. He was undergoing surgery, the regional government reported.

A man, 23, from Florence, Ky., and a Spanish man, 40, were both gored in their thighs. Two young Spanish men sustained head injuries.

The nine-day San Fermin fiesta, where six bulls are run every morning in the city's narrow streets before being killed in afternoon bullfights, draws about a million visitors annually, including many citizens from the United States. Every year, hundreds of "runners" race ahead of or next to the bulls, while the more risk-averse watch from balconies.

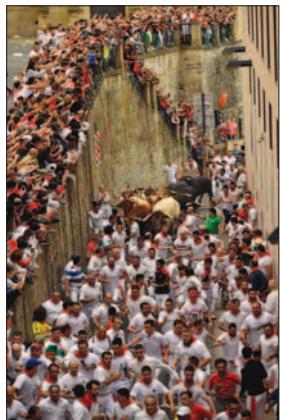
Some arrive following in the steps of American novelist and Nobel literature laureate Ernest Hemingway, who became fascinated by bullfighting and immortalized the festival in his 1926 book "The Sun Also Rises."

Sunday morning's inaugural run featured bulls from the Puerto de San Lorenzo cattle breeder, which caused one goring last year.

The pack dashed together along the cobblestone, barricaded street course. Toward the end, one of the bulls stumbled briefly, causing panic, and at least one goring took place when it resumed the race and charged at some of the runners.

The local Red Cross said its emergency personnel had attended to an additional 48 people for minor injuries, including two who had been trampled by the racing bulls.

The run, which lasted 2 minutes and 41 seconds, came after the festival's official opening — or "Chupinazo" — on Friday, when tens of thousands of partygoers shower each other with wine and champagne in a packed square.



ALVARO BARRIENTOS/AP

Revelers sprint during the running of the bulls at the San Fermin Festival in Pamplona, northern Spain, on Sunday. Three people, including two Americans, were gored.

Investigators scour scene of Bahamas helo crash

BY NATALIE SCHACHAR
AND TRAVIS LOLLER
Associated Press

Accident investigators in the Bahamas are going well below the surface of the water to try to figure out what went wrong in the moments before a helicopter crashed after takeoff and killed seven people, including West Virginia coal magnate Chris Cline.

The Bahamas Air Accident Investigation Department said via Twitter late Friday that salvage teams were conducting "underwater surveying and mapping of the debris field." The department said the operation has been underway since the crash of the Augusta AW139 chopper, which

went down Thursday in waters just off Grand Cay after departing for Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Authorities have said it is too early to draw conclusions about the cause of the crash. They do not believe a distress call was made and they began searching only after police received a report from Florida that Cline and the others had failed to arrive in Fort Lauderdale as expected.

Those killed included Cline's daughter, Kameron, 22, and three of her close friends: Brittney Layne Sehorn, Jillian Clark and Delaney Wykle. Sehorn, Clark and Kameron Cline were recent graduates of Louisiana State University.

Wykle had recently graduated

from West Virginia University. Paula Wykle, Delaney's mother, said she saw her daughter for about three hours after she passed her nursing boards on Tuesday. Then Delaney "went to the Bahamas to meet her childhood best friend," Kameron Cline, whom she had not seen in about a year.

"She was going to start work in August, and we told her, 'This is your last chance to go before you become a grown-up,'" her mother said.

Wykle said that when one of the vacationing party got sick and needed to be transported back to the mainland, Delaney Wykle wanted to be there to help. That's how she ended up on the helicopter.

"She got to practice nursing for one day," Wykle said, calling her daughter "smart, loving and one of the best friends anyone could ever ask for."

The Wykle family is from Beckley, W.Va.

F. King Alexander, Louisiana State University's president, issued a statement of condolence to all the crash victims and their families.

"The LSU community is mourning the loss of three recent graduates, along with all of those who lost their lives in this tragic accident. Kameron, Jillian and Brittney were all May 2019 graduates and had such bright futures ahead of them," Alexander said.

Pride celebrations in Europe mark 50 years since Stonewall

BY ARITZ PARRA
Associated Press

MADRID — European cities celebrated LGBTQ pride on Saturday with colorful parades that also became platforms for political demands and a pushback against far-right populist parties.

This year's events in London, Madrid and Budapest, Hungary, mark the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Inn uprising in New York against police persecution, a turning point in the modern gay rights movement.

The Spanish capital's parade, one of the largest in the world, also became on Saturday the stage for the bursting of political tensions when police had to escort center-right politicians out of the parade after LGBTQ activists blocked them from continuing halfway into the course.

The protesters, some of them hurling water bottles at the politicians, expressed anger over the center-right Citizens party's close ties to Vox, an ultra-conservative party that has recently made inroads in Spanish politics and that activists perceive as an instigator of homophobia.

Vox officials, whose votes were key last month in electing a new conservative Madrid mayor also supported by Citizens, have proposed moving next year's pride parade out of the city center, while regional leader Rocio Monasterio has said the celebrations "denigrate people's dignity" and include "explicit sexual acts in the streets."

"When a mother, a father step outside with children from their home, they don't have to be exposed to that spectacle," Monasterio recently told a conservative website.

MANU FERNANDEZ/AP
Participants in the annual LGBTQ pride parade carry the rainbow flag in Madrid on Saturday.

Citizens had defended its right to join the pride celebrations despite refusing to sign the march's manifesto, which called on political parties not to support anti-LGBTQ policies by the far right.

Beatriz Gimeno, a longtime LGBTQ activist and far-left Podemos (We Can) party lawmaker, told The Associated Press that "reactionary" remarks by the far right were a reminder of how relevant the battle for gay rights remains.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police ID ice cream licker as teenage girl

TX LUFKIN — Police in East Texas said a teenager from San Antonio is suspected of taking a tub of ice cream from a Walmart freezer, removing the top to lick the ice cream and then returning it to the freezer.

Blue Bell Creameries said in a statement that it determined a Walmart store in Lufkin was where "the malicious act of food tampering took place."

A video posted to social media shows the teenage girl laughing as she places the top back on the half-gallon container and returning it to the freezer.

Blue Bell said the container that was "compromised" was found and removed.

Lufkin police said they don't intend to charge the teen with tampering with a consumer product.

State modifies ban on deer urine lures

LA NEW ORLEANS — Louisiana has modified its ban on urine-scented lures used to attract deer, legalizing those that are certified free of the malformed protein that causes chronic wasting disease and meet a second standard.

A statement said producers now can test for the fatal disease in urine-based deer lures.

Louisiana said products must both use the test and be certified by the Archery Trade Association Deer Protection Program.

The commission banned urine lures last August, saying they might carry prions that spread the disease.

Police: Fake worker collected stubs for cash

NC MORRISVILLE — Police arrested a North Carolina man who they say posed as a theater worker to collect ticket stubs from patrons and take them to the box office to redeem for cash.

In an arrest warrant, Morrisville police said Benjamin Chigooze Ashmole, 41, collected about \$187 in March. He was caught last week trying to redeem \$126 worth of tickets, police said.

A spokeswoman for Stone Theaters said the chain refunds money or issues passes to theatergoers if they have an emergency or there's a power outage.

Police charged Ashmole, saying he gave officers a Mississippi driver's license that wasn't his and refused to provide his real identity.

City gets name wrong on honorary street

PA PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia honored singer Patti LaBelle with her very own street last week. Unfortunately, the signs didn't get her name right.

The city's Streets Department didn't capitalize the "i" in the legendary soul singer's last name on the signs that were put up before the ceremony on Broad



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Harbor cruise

People take a cruise on an electric boat in Baltimore's Inner Harbor on Friday.

Street. A stretch between Locust and Spruce streets was renamed "Patti LaBelle Way" in honor of the Philadelphia native.

City spokeswoman Deana Gamble told The Philadelphia Inquirer the city is aware of the error and plans to install signs with the correct capitalization of LaBelle's name this week.

A sign that LaBelle autographed and held during the ceremony was spelled correctly.

Truck carrying ramen noodles rolls over

IL MORTON — Police said a truck carrying ramen noodles overturned in central Illinois.

The 60-year-old driver from Columbus, Ohio, apparently was driving too fast on a ramp connecting two interstate near Morton in Tazewell County.

Any injuries weren't considered to be life-threatening.

State police Sgt. Tony Halsey didn't know if the trailer broke open, but he said all the ramen had to be unloaded.

12 arrested, 5 injured in fireworks fight

AR LITTLE ROCK — Twelve people were arrested after firing fireworks at each other and at sheriff's deputies during a large fight in a small central Arkansas town that sent

THE CENSUS

61K

The number of street lights Cleveland will replace with energy-efficient LED lamps. The \$35 million project is aimed at improving safety and saving the city money. Cleveland.com reported the city is pairing some of those lights with about 1,000 high-definition security cameras to be installed near crime hot spots, recreation centers, busy streets and intersections. The project is expected to take 18 months.

several people who lost fingers to the hospital.

Pulaski County sheriff's Lt. Cody Burk said more than 200 people were gathered and some were firing large fireworks at each other.

He said five people who had lost fingers were sent to the hospital but he did not have information on their conditions.

Police, residents rescue snake from car engine

CT EAST WINDSOR — Police and bystanders teamed up to rescue a six-foot-long snake that had wrapped itself around the engine block of a car in Connecticut.

East Windsor police said the reptile, possibly a boa constrictor, had to be removed from a resident's vehicle.

The reptile was put in a crate and will be turned over to a nature center.

Police speculated that the snake was an escaped pet and said they tried calling an animal control

officer or some other expert, but none was available because of the holiday.

Man runs races in 50 states before turning 50

KS LENEXA — A suburban Kansas City man who recently completed his quest of running marathons in all 50 states before the age of 50 credits a pair of gloves delivered from the heavens with getting him through his first one.

Austin Braithwait, 49, whose final stop was a June 22 race in Duluth, Minn., ran his first marathon in Kansas City, Mo., during an ice storm.

When Mile 16 rolled around, his hands were "freezing" and Braithwait was ecstatic to spot what looked like a pair of gloves lying in the middle of the course.

Braithwait, then 26, was convinced one of the three runners ahead of him would snatch them up, but none did.

Braithwait, of Lenexa, called the experience "miserable," and

he waited eight years before running another one.

Salt Lake City to host 2021 Quidditch cup

UT SALT LAKE CITY — Salt Lake City was chosen to host the U.S. Quidditch World Cup in 2021.

Mayor Jackie Biskupski announced the event location selection Friday and said the city was chosen for its proximity to an airport and its walkable downtown area. The event is expected to host 84 teams and draw than 7,000 attendees.

Quidditch is a full contact sport inspired by the "Harry Potter" book series that combines elements of rugby, dodgeball and tag.

Police: Woman drunk while towing 2 horses

MI OTSEGO TOWNSHIP — Police said a woman suspected of drunken driving was driving 91 mph on Interstate 75 while towing two horses in a trailer in northern Michigan.

State police said the horses were turned over to Otsego County animal control until another driver could pick them up.

The 38-year-old driver from Wayne in Wayne County was taken to the county jail.

From wire reports

FACES



'Old Town Road' by Lil Nas X the longest-running No. 1 hip-hop song

Lil Nas X earned the top spot on the Billboard Hot 100 for the 13th consecutive week — the longest for any hip-hop record — with his breakout single "Old Town Road" featuring Billy Ray Cyrus.

The artist beat out "See You Again" by Wiz Khalifa featuring Charlie Puth, "Boom Boom Pow" by The Black Eyed Peas and "Lose Yourself" by Eminem, all of which maintained the spot for 12 weeks.

The accolades for the 20-year-old didn't stop there.

His EP "7" debuted at No. 1 on



the Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums and Top Rap Albums charts with 77,000 equivalent album units.

It also garnered 90.4 million-demand audio streams during the tracking frame, making it the most-streamed album of the week.

From the New York Daily News

Entitled millionaire Swift speaks for music industry

BY RANDY LEWIS
Los Angeles Times

Taylor Swift, one of music's most polarizing superstars, is embroiled in another public battle.

This time, however, the target of her ire isn't an ex-boyfriend or another musician with whom she has clashed, but super-manager Scooter Braun. Braun has assembled an investment group that's entered into a deal, announced in late June, to pony up \$300 million to buy her former record label and with it, the master recordings to all her existing studio albums.

Swift is incensed, as millions of her social media followers learned from an angry Tumblr post, that Big Machine Label Group chief Scott Borchetta would sell his company to Braun.

Describing the deal as "my worst nightmare," Swift wrote that she is "sad and grossed out" that Braun will take over the indie company that launched in tandem with Swift's debut album in 2006.

Once again, the public has responded vociferously, with the pro-Swift faction lauding her as a fierce advocate for artists' rights, while the anti-Swift contingent painted her as a super-rich celebrity socialite秉承ing her latest perceived injustice.

The battle with Braun and Borchetta, however, aligns with her track record of targeting a succession of foes increasingly potent stature. In the dozen years since she emerged from Nashville as this generation's most successful singer-songwriter, Swift has consistently spoken out in support of the economic rights of her fellow creatives.

"Hopefully," she wrote on Tumblr, "young artists or kids with musical dreams will read this and learn about how to better protect themselves in a negotiation. You deserve to own the art you make."

On one level, Swift's latest fight is emblematic of her career. Over time she's stepped up to challenge adversaries of progressively greater power and influence.

Even before she signed with Big Machine, she (and her parents) held out from among a number of offers she had received to sign a recording contract that both allowed her to use her own songs and to have a hand in producing her records — hardly standard procedure in Nashville, and certainly not for an act still too young to vote.

By the time of her third album, "Speak Now," released in 2010, Swift decided to take on skeptics who ascribed her success to others — whether her songwriting collaborators, co-producer or record company execs. For that album, she

pointedly wrote all the songs on her own, including "Mean," her response to those who'd thrown bars her way.

In 2015, with her pop stardom at its zenith, she decided to go head-to-head with the most successful company in the world, Apple, withholding her "1989" album from Apple's streaming service and challenging the company to revamp its policy that required artists to give up their royalties during a three-month introductory trial period when the tech behemoth was trying to lure new subscribers with a no-cost tryout.

Apple relented, after which Swift authorized it to stream her album.

In 2017, Swift prevailed in a lawsuit she had filed against a Denver disc jockey who had sued her for wrongful termination after she complained to his employer that he had grabbed her bottom during a 2013 post-concert meet-and-greet. The DJ was fired, and then sued Swift.

She countersued, asking the jury for a token \$1 judgment on behalf of "anyone who feels silenced by sexual assault."

"I acknowledge the privilege that I benefit from in life, in society and in my ability to shoulder the enormous cost of defending myself in a trial like this," she said at the time. "My hope is to help those whose voices should also be heard."

The jury sided with Swift.

More recently, as her original contract with Borchetta and Big Machine expired, she decided to sign with the UMG-owned label Republic Records. In negotiating that deal, Swift went to bat not only for herself but all other UMG artists.

"There was one condition that meant more to me than any other deal point," she wrote in an Instagram post last November announcing the deal. "As part of my new contract with Universal Music Group, I asked that any sale of their Spotify shares result in a distribution of money to their artists, non-recoupable." Billboard estimated that the Spotify payout could be worth an estimated \$300 million to UMG acts.

Swift says she hopes to empower young artists to forge better deals than the one she signed when she was a young teenager. That goal, however, may be beyond even Swift's superpowers. Historically, musicians enter their first recording contracts as unknowns, and record companies gamble on whether they will defy the odds.

"It's the way the business has been and always will be," longtime music industry executive and talent manager Jim Guerin said. "You don't have leverage when you start out. You get screwed on your first deal, you get it right on your second."

"The golden ticket," he said, "is getting the reversion" of ownership of master recordings. "What you have to exchange for that? That's how you decide whether or not it's worth it."



Braun

Alex Winter,
left, and Keanu
Reeves are Bill
and Ted.

Hammerstone
Studios/TNS



Bodacious: Keanu Reeves, Alex Winter start filming 'Bill & Ted Face the Music'

Break out the Valleypeak dictionary, fine-tune your air guitar and call up Socrates for a reunion most excellent!

Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter, who staged high school's most awesome history lesson 30 years ago as California time travelers in "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure," and again in "Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey," are back for a third go-round as San Dimas' most triumphant duders.

On July 2, Winter — aka William "Bill" Preston, Esquire — and Reeves (Theodore Logan) were spotted in New Orleans filming the third "Bill & Ted" title "Bill & Ted Face the Music."

Little is known about the plot, other than the singing slackers meet a visitor from the future who informs them that they must create a song so righteous that it can save the universe.

Back in 1989, the buds sought rock 'n' roll glory with their band Wyld Stallyns. In a nod to their musical roots, Winter posted an image of himself sporting a Wyld Stallyns T-shirt.

"Day one," tweeted Winter on July 1. "See you on the other side and remember to be excellent."

Several familiar faces from the series will appear in the third installment, including Amy Stoch as Bill's smoking-hot stepmother, Missy; Hal Landry as Ted's dad, Captain Logan, and William Sadler as the Grim Reaper from "Bogus Journey."

"Face the Music" is slated to hit theaters in August 2020.

From the New York Daily News

Davis, Wade the next NBA 2K20 cover stars

The NBA has been a chaotic place over the past week. The free agency period has kicked off and a number of superstars are finding themselves in new homes. Among them is the new cover athlete for NBA 2K20. Recently, 2K Games officially revealed new Los Angeles Laker Anthony Davis as the NBA 2K20 cover star.

Davis is a six-time NBA All-Star, three-time NBA All-First Team, three-time NBA All-Defensive Team and 2012 Olympic gold medalist. He's mostly sat on the outside looking in during the postseason in New Orleans, but that may change as he joins LeBron James on the Lakers roster.

2K is also bringing back the "Legend Edition" of the game, "Legend Edition" of the game,



which will get a separate cover. That cover athlete was revealed to be Dwyane Wade, who just completed his final NBA season with three NBA championships, as well as numerous accolades that include 13-time NBA All-Star, 2008 Olympic gold medalist and 2006 NBA Finals MVP.

From Shacknews.com

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly (days except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Friday and for 75 cents Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Inc., 1000 12th St. NW, DOD Building, Washington, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

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OPINION

Disney rightly cut sexist blooper. Why hide it?

BY MARY McNAMARA

Los Angeles Times

Disney is not a company known for explaining itself, but why on earth it would do a good thing in a way that makes it look shady really is beyond me.

In a new 4K Blu-ray edition of Pixar's "Toy Story 2" released June 4, Disney removed from the film's closing credits "blooper" a scene of Stinky Pete (voiced by Kelsey Grammer) sexually harassing two Barbie dolls. ("So you're identical in every way," he purrs creepily, stroking one of the dolls' arms. "I'm sure I could get you a role in 'Toy Story 3.'") That decision is good.

But Disney did it with no explanation or announcement — though members of online communities noticed almost at once, most media only caught on recently. And that is almost as creepy, and stinky, as of Pete himself.

"Toy Story 2" was, of course, made by John Lasseter, who left Disney after multiple accusations of inappropriate conduct and the creation of a "frat house" environment at Pixar, which makes the scene not only objectionable but queasily symbolic. Clearly, the guys at Pixar thought an old man leering at two young women was funny. Ha ha ha.

The film came out years before Pixar was under Disney ownership (although the studio distributed all of Pixar's feature films even before the acquisition), but it was Disney that had to deal with years of Lasseter rumors becoming public accusations, and it was Disney that showed him the door.

Over the years, objectionable scenes from other older Disney properties have been cut or modified, sometimes in response to protest (changing the lyric "where they cut off your ear if they don't like your face" in the opening song of "Aladdin") and sometimes sparked it: The editing of the character Jim Crow from 1941's "Dumbo" and the company's refusal to release "Song of the South" on any platform is seen by some as an attempt to simply pretend that racism and racist imagery never existed.

But the quiet excision of a fake "blooper" that perfectly encapsulates part of the Hollywood mythology that has allowed women



This image shows a scene from the movie "Toy Story 4."

to be harmed by so many for so long without comment seems an enormous missed opportunity.

For the record, I remember seeing that blooper on the first DVD release, and, though I am ashamed to admit it, I remember laughing at it.

In part because the sight of animated characters being treated like actual performers was so fresh, but also because the idea of an older actor using his perceived access to seduce younger women was so deeply ingrained in the collective notion of Hollywood that, especially in this ingrained context, seemed funny.

The "blooper" was clearly aimed at the parents — the Hollywood insider jokes were far too adult for the younger members of the audience — but it didn't occur to me to object to what it portrayed, even as my kids were watching.

Stinky Pete was only behaving in a way that I had seen portrayed fictionally (and nonfictionally) for my entire life, sometimes as an indication of sleaziness or manipulation — like Addison DeWitt sexually exploiting Marilyn Monroe's character in "All About Eve" — sometimes in a more benign or even helpful way, like every story in which a male character's plucking a woman from obscurity because he likes her "guts" seems to lead to him sleeping with her.

So, to every woman, including myself, who has had to endure such leering, pawing, and sexually insinuating promises of career assistance, I formally apologize.

If only someone at Disney had thought to do the same, or at least use the scene to further an important conversation, rather than simply avoid it.

As some have pointed out online, when Looney Tunes released its Golden Collection DVD, Whoopi Goldberg introduced Part 3 with an acknowledgement of the racism at work in some of the cartoons, and how it is valuable not to ignore it because it is part of cinematic, and American, history.

Likewise, the myth of "the casting couch" has been used to harm, exploit and diminish women since they were finally allowed to participate in the dramatic arts. Gloria Steinem tried to defuse it with her famous observation that "if women could sleep their way to the top, there would be more women at the top," but even that bolstered the belief that sex was somehow a power tool.

If #MeToo has done nothing else, it has dispelled the notion that incursions on one's sexuality is just a natural part of the power game in Hollywood and other industries, something women should arm themselves against, with humor, avoidance tactics or Mae Busch butte accept.

It isn't a game, and it isn't funny. No one should have to make their sexuality available for comment or use it to get a job of any sort.

Not even Barbie. Not even in a blooper. Mary McNamara is a Los Angeles Times culture columnist/critic. She is the author of the Hollywood mysteries "Oscar Season" and "The Starlet."

Tobacco product use threatens military readiness

BY VICE ADM. JEROME ADAMS,

Lt. GEN. NADIA WEST,

VICE ADM. FORREST FAISON

AND LT. GEN. DOROTHY HOGG

Special to Stars and Stripes

To our servicemembers:

The surgeons general of the Air Force, Army, Navy, and United States are united in our concerns about high levels of tobacco product use among uniformed servicemembers. Tobacco product use is a threat to the health and fitness of our forces and compromises readiness, the foundation of a strong national defense.

Use of tobacco products among service members is pervasive, harmful and an urgent public health problem. More than one-third of servicemembers who use tobacco products started after joining the military.

A well-known cause of cancers, heart and lung disease and stroke, tobacco product use jeopardizes fitness and sleep quality and increases stress. In addition, tobacco product users are more likely to be injured and their injuries are slower to heal.

As the surgeons general, responsible for

the health and readiness of more than one million lives, we are speaking with one voice to urge the types of actions that can help servicemembers quit all forms of tobacco product use, irrespective of whether it is smoked, smokeless or electronic. Join us now to build a stronger, healthier and more resilient force.

We recommend that leadership:

- Lead by example. Be tobacco-free.
- Stress the negative impact of tobacco product use on health and performance at all levels of command.

- Enforce tobacco-free policies to protect against exposure to secondhand smoke and e-cigarette aerosol.

- Make tobacco product use less convenient and ensure that it is not rewarded.

- Coordinate with local, state and national efforts to reduce tobacco product use.

We encourage servicemembers to:

- Be tobacco-free.
- Reach out to others to help you quit; your team, including medical staff, can assist you.

- Ask your health care professional about FDA-approved medications and counseling that can help you quit. Note, e-cigarettes are not approved as cessation

agents by the FDA.

■ Know your Tricare benefits plan — you have complete coverage to help you stop using tobacco products. Visit <https://tricare.mil/tobaccocession> for more information.

■ Access these resources:

- YouCanQuit2 at <https://www.yqcq2.org/>
- SmokefreeVET at <https://veterans.gov/>
- 1-800-QUIT-NOW or 1-855-QUIT-VET
- SmokefreeTXT at <https://smokefree.gov/smokefreetxt>

- Mobile apps: QuitGuide and quitSTART at <https://smokefree.gov/tools-tips/apps>

- Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/groups/military.html> for more information.

It's never a good time to start using tobacco products and never too late to quit — your health, your performance and your country depend on it. Sustain the force. Be fit, be healthy, be ready!

Vice Adm. Jerome Adams is surgeon general of the United States. Lt. Gen. Nadia West is surgeon general of the U.S. Army. Vice Adm. Forrest Faison is surgeon general of the U.S. Navy. Lt. Gen. Dorothy Hogg is surgeon general of the U.S. Air Force.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Company uses unusual tactic for gig workers

By ELLEN HUET
Bloomberg

The perennial issue in the gig economy is whether workers should be classified as employees. Uber Technologies Inc., Lyft Inc. and other companies that rely on contract work have dealt with this question in a number of ways: staging PR campaigns, hiring lobbyists and arguing in court that they're software platforms, not employers.

At Getaround Inc., which helps people rent out their personal cars online, the startup is employing an uncommon legal tactic to defeat a class-action lawsuit before it starts.

As lawyers were working on one such case, Getaround preemptively sent dozens of checks to people who have worked with the company, attached to paperwork asking them to sign away their legal rights. According to a provision within the documents, depositing the money, even without signing the contract, would count as an agreement to waive their rights to sue. Almost everyone did.

The technique, which has been used selectively by companies in other industries, may prove to be particularly effective in the gig economy, where workers lack financial stability, said Bryan Schwartz, a Bay Area attorney who's not involved in the case.

It's an "insidious" move, he said, because recipients likely can't afford to seek legal counsel and weigh the benefits of holding out for a potentially larger payout from a lawsuit.

"Low-wage workers, who are trying to make ends meet, are especially vulnerable," said Schwartz, who serves on the board of the California Employ-



CHRISTOPHER GOODNEY/Bloomberg

Sam Zaid is founder and CEO of Getaround, which is using an uncommon legal tactic to preclude a class-action lawsuit by workers.

ment Lawyers Association, a worker advocacy group.

Getaround's legal strategy in this case, which involves whether contract workers should be treated like regular employees, highlights the creative measures gig companies will take to avoid scrutiny of their use of contractors.

Many of these businesses are unprofitable and would lose even more money if they were forced to reclassify workers and pay employment benefits. In California, where Getaround and its ilk are based, companies are reeling from last year's sweeping ruling by the state's supreme court that limits the scope of work companies can classify as contracted.

Lyt, Uber and Postmates Inc. have been lobbying lawmakers and publishing op-eds, hoping to find a workaround. And all those companies have faced lawsuits from contractors claiming they should get the same benefits and protections as employees.

A spokeswoman for Getaround said the company denies the allegations in the suit and will continue to defend itself. She wrote in an email that Getaround has a commitment to "fairly value the

contributions of our employees."

The legal gambit is known among employment lawyers as "Pick Up Stix." The name is a reference to a 2009 case involving a fast-casual restaurant chain that used the strategy to secure settlements with workers seeking overtime pay.

Recipients may not realize that accepting the check means they're giving up a chance at a bigger payout down the line, or they may not be able to afford to wait.

Last year, a former Getaround worker, Amanda Ponciano, sued the company, saying her work as a "fleet associate" qualified as that of an employee but she was paid like a contractor. She and other fleet associates were paid around \$15 an hour to move cars around the city and help prep vehicles to be rented. She said they went through a two-week training program administered by Getaround, were assigned shifts by the company, wore Getaround hats and jackets and used mostly company-provided equipment — details that she said support her misclassification claim.

In October, while her attorney worked to get class-action certi-

fication for the suit, Getaround sent out letters and emails to the 61 people in California who had worked the same job as Ponciano in recent years. In the envelope was a check and a message saying the money is theirs if they sign a settlement waiving their right to sue Getaround for anything that happened in the past. It also said they could simply deposit the check to indicate their consent. All but four took the offer.

The checks ranged from \$250 to about \$9,000, depending on how long the person had worked for Getaround, said Ramsey Hanafi, the attorney working on the suit. The company spent about \$145,000 on this initial round of settlements.

Around the same time, Getaround made its fleet associates employees. The company declined to explain its reasoning for the change.

Then, in May, Getaround sent a new settlement offer. It needed to amend its previous contracts because it had actually asked its fleet associates to sign away more rights than was legally tenable. (Though, in general, collecting preemptive settlements is considered a viable strategy.)

In the new letter, Getaround told the workers that they could either sign the new agreement and get an additional \$100 check mailed to them, or they could return the money they had previously accepted in the first agreement, Hanafi said. If they did neither, Getaround wrote in the emails, the company could sue them for the money.

The most recent settlements were due in June. The case, which is ongoing, has yet to achieve class-action status.

Hanafi estimated Getaround owes \$1.6 million for wages and

penalties, far more than the company will pay in settlements. His client, Ponciano, doesn't fault her former colleague for taking the cash from Getaround.

Settling worker claims the way Getaround did is unusual among gig economy companies but only because most of them already require workers to sign class-action waivers as part of their arbitration agreements, said Christian Schreiber, an attorney who has handled worker misclassification cases against Lyft.

EXCHANGE RATES

| | Military rates | |
|--|------------------|--------|
| Euro costs (July 8) | \$1.1553 | |
| Dollar buys (July 8) | €0.8656 | |
| British pound (July 8) | ¥129.39 | |
| Japanese yen (July 8) | ₩105.00 | |
| South Korean won (July 8) | 1,141.00 | |
| | Commercial rates | |
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3769 | |
| British pound | 1.2500 | |
| Canadian (Dollar) | 0.8125 | |
| Chinese (Yuan) | 0.5894 | |
| Denmark (Krone) | 0.6524 | |
| Egypt (Pound) | 16.6313 | |
| Finland (Markka) | 1,121.99 | 930.94 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.7948 | |
| Hungary (Forint) | 289.10 | |
| India (Rupee) | 13.37 | |
| Japan (Yen) | 108.58 | |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.3042 | |
| Norway (Krone) | 0.8573 | |
| Poland (Zloty) | 51.39 | |
| Portugal (Zloty) | 3.79 | |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7590 | |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 1.1615 | |
| South Korea (Won) | 1,174.45 | |
| United Kingdom (Pound) | 0.9917 | |
| United States (Dollar) | 0.3081 | |
| Uzbekistan (Som) | 5.5384 | |
| (Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities. Commercial rates are those available to the general public.) | | |
| For Japanese yen, 1 yen = 100 yen. For example, 100 yen = 1.1553 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For British pound, 1 British pound = 1.2500 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For Canadian dollar, 1 Canadian dollar = 0.8125 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For Chinese yuan, 1 Chinese yuan = 0.5894 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For Danish krone, 1 Danish krone = 0.6524 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For Egyptian pound, 1 Egyptian pound = 16.6313 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For Finland markka, 1 Finland markka = 1,121.99 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For Hong Kong dollar, 1 Hong Kong dollar = 7.7948 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For Hungary forint, 1 Hungary forint = 289.10 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For India rupee, 1 India rupee = 13.37 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For Japan yen, 1 Japan yen = 108.58 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For Kuwait dinar, 1 Kuwait dinar = 0.3042 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For Norway krone, 1 Norway krone = 0.8573 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For Poland zloty, 1 Poland zloty = 51.39 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For Portugal zloty, 1 Portugal zloty = 3.79 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For Saudi Arabia riyal, 1 Saudi Arabia riyal = 3.7590 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For Switzerland franc, 1 Switzerland franc = 1.1615 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For South Korea won, 1 South Korea won = 1,174.45 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For United Kingdom pound, 1 United Kingdom pound = 0.9917 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For United States dollar, 1 United States dollar = 0.3081 U.S. dollars. | | |
| For Uzbekistan som, 1 Uzbekistan som = 5.5384 U.S. dollars. | | |

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Prime rate | 5.50 |
| Discount rate | 3.00 |
| Federal funds market rate | 2.41 |
| 3-month bill | 2.16 |
| 30-year bond | 2.55 |

WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



MONDAY IN EUROPE

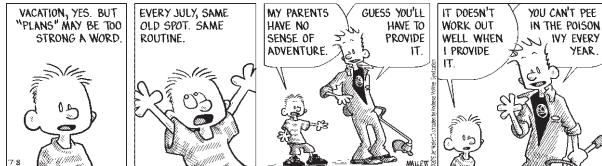


TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



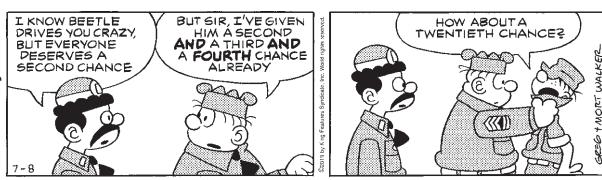
Candorville



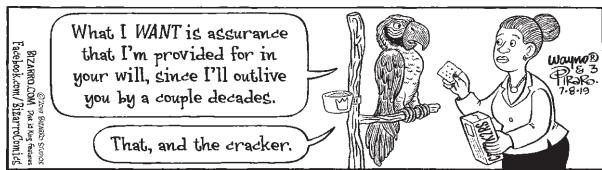
Carpe Diem



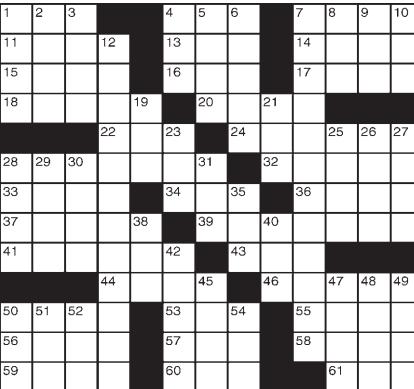
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

1 Quirky
4 Chances, for short
7 Mystique
11 Big swing
13 Fan's cry
14 Monumental
15 Sitarist Shankar
16 "—was saying..."
17 Wise one
18 Decree
20 Crunchy cookie
22 "Uhh-uh"
24 Emulated Queen Latifah
28 Realms
32 Grammar topic
33 Opposite of "sans"
34 Tic-tac-toe loser
36 Actress Drescher
37 Sudden onrush
39 Hogwarts alumni
41 Op-ed pieces
43 Science room
44 Toucan feature
46 Ballet bends
50 Soup serving
53 Vegas opener
55 — Stanley Gardner
56 Sheltered
57 Antlered grazer
58 RSVP enclosure

59 Pills, in slang
60 Mermaid's home
61 Proof letters

25 Henry VIII's Catherine
26 "Zounds!"
27 Cozy rooms
28 Lighten
29 Star athletes, briefly
30 Carrots' mates
31 Plant seeds
35 Squash stopper
38 Needle hole
40 Use a taser
42 Red-tag events
45 Hardy cabbage
47 Baghdad's land
48 Otherwise
49 Burpee buy
50 "Kapow!"
51 Flamenco cheer
52 Marry
54 Reggae relative

Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | O | I | N | G | S | T | E | E | P | E | M | E | D |
| C | O | N | N | O | R | | H | E | M | M | E | | |
| R | W | A | N | D | A | T | T | I | R | E | | | |
| A | L | B | E | V | O | E | K | L | I | L | | | |
| V | E | E | P | E | M | I | V | O | I | O | | | |
| E | R | T | E | S | G | R | E | N | A | D | | | |
| R | T | E | S | G | R | E | N | A | D | | | | |
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| S | A | G | A | B | D | U | L | R | R | U | | | |
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| S | E | A | N | C | T | R | A | D | E | S | | | |
| S | E | T | H | S | | S | A | G | E | S | | | |

7-8

CRYPTOQUIP

U J F G S R Z D V G O Z H T W F R J I K

B V W T J O J O Q J D T Z S B Z K T I J H C

I W V R I J Z F V W I V J D W H I V J

V J Z C: Q W U F G S I G D J.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU'RE MORE AMICABLE TO PEOPLE WHO LOOK UP FACTS IN BOOKS, IS THAT REFERENTIAL TREATMENT?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals C

FREE AD Guidelines:

- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

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Classifieds EUROPE

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Announcements 040**Automotive 140****Autos for Sale - Germany 142**

Auto • Quality Pre-owned US SPEC Vehicles
www.wilcockmilitarysales.com
Free Europe-wide delivery

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Certified teachers needed
Inquire Kids Learning Center
kids.mackenbach@gmail.com

Entertainment 450

Brent Marx new CD
"You're the Light"
Country/Rock/easylistening
songs for Parties, travel, home
and more

Available now at Amazon.de
iTunes, CCloud, etc.
50% of all proceeds are donated
to the National Wounded
Warrior Center.

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classifieds advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classifieds advertising should also determine in conducting the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and can be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

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SCOREBOARD

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on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.

myafn.net

Deals

Saturday's transactions

BASEBALL

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Recalled RHP David Hess from Norfolk (IL). Claimed RHP Matt Klim from the 40-man roster to the 15-man, Designated RHP Josh Lucas for assignment.

DETROIT RED SOX — Signed RHP Noah Song to a minor league contract and assigned him to Lowell (NYP).

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Recalled OF Greg Allen from Columbus (IL). Options RHP Matt Pivetta to Triple-A Columbus.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Placed 1B C.J. Cron on the 10-day DL, Recalled of LaMoure (ND).

NEW YORK YANKEES — Optioned INF Mike Ford to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL). Recalled RHP Luis Cessa from the Yankees' farmarena from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. Following today's game, optioned LHP Dustin May to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

CLEVELAND ATHLETICS — Recalled RHP L.J. Walker from Las Vegas (LV). Optioned RHP Paul Blackburn to Las Vegas (LV).

SEATTLE MARINERS — Recalled RHPs Parker Marquez and David McKay from Tacoma (WA). Recalled RHPs Kyle Orton and the 10-day DL, retroactive to July 4. Placed RHP Dan Altavilla on the 10-day DL.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Placed RHP Trevor Williams on the 10-day DL. Recalled RHPs Trevor Williams and RHPs Matt Capps (IL), Optioned RHP Dovydas Neveraus to Indianapolis. Placed RHP Steven Brault on the 10-day DL. Recalled RHPs Montana DuRapau and Luis Escobar from Indianapolis.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL Basketball Association — **ATLANTA HAWKS** — Signed F Allen Crabbe, a conditional 2020 first-round draft pick and the draft rights to G Nicki Alexander, a conditional 2021 second-round draft pick.

DETROIT PISTONS — Traded C Aron Baynes and the draft rights to Ty Jerome to Phoenix for a future protected first-round draft pick.

CHICAGO BULLS — Signed F Thaddeus Young from the 10-day DL.

DETROIT PISTONS — Signed F Markieff Morris and G Tim Frazier from the 10-day DL.

INDIANA PACERS — Acquired G Malcom Brodgon from Milwaukee for a 2020 first-round draft pick and two future second-round draft picks.

MIAMI HEAT — Acquired G Jimmy Butler from the 10-day DL, F Meyers Leonard from Portland and cash from the Los Angeles Clippers for a future protected first-round draft pick. Portland, Philadelphia received G Josh Richardson from Miami. The LA Clippers received G Dario Saric from Philadelphia and a protected first-round draft pick from Miami. Waived G Ryan Anderson.

DETROIT PISTONS — Acquired F Terrence Ross and F C-Nikola Vucevic to four-year contracts. Signed G Al-Farouq Amin and G Christian Wood from the Timberwolves.

PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS — Re-signed G Damion James to a four-year contract.

WASHINGTON WIZARDS — Traded C Dwight Howard to Memphis for F CJ Miles.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

BUFFALO SABRES — Signed Marcus Johansson to a two-year contract.

Pro basketball

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-------------|---|---|------|-----|
| Washington | 9 | 3 | .750 | |
| Connecticut | 7 | 5 | .583 | |
| New York | 7 | 5 | .500 | |
| Indiana | 6 | 7 | .462 | 3/2 |
| Atlanta | 3 | 9 | .250 | 8 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-----------|---|---|------|-----|
| Las Vegas | 8 | 5 | .615 | |
| Minnesota | 8 | 6 | .571 | 1 |
| Seattle | 8 | 7 | .500 | 1 |
| Phoenix | 8 | 8 | .500 | 1 |
| Dallas | 4 | 8 | .333 | 3/2 |

Saturday's game

Minnesota 74, Connecticut 71

Sunday's games

Las Vegas vs. New York

Dallas at Los Angeles

Atlanta at Phoenix

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MLB

Nationals, Scherzer stay hot, blank KC

By HARVEY VALENTINE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A few days after the birth of his second daughter, Kacy, Max Scherzer was back to work.

His wife wouldn't have it any other way.

Scherzer sustained a dominant stretch with seven strong innings two days after the birth of his daughter, Kurt Suzuki homered and the Washington Nationals beat the Kansas City Royals 6-0 on Saturday.

The NL pitcher of the month for June, Scherzer (9-5) allowed four hits and struck out 11 with one walk in his final outing before heading to Tuesday's All-Star Game, where he won't pitch. Kacy was born Thursday.

"I know my wife, Erica, she wanted me to pitch today," Scherzer said. "She wants me out there pitching, she doesn't want me sitting at home. We got the in-laws in, we got help. She's a baseball wife, she (was) a pitcher (in college). She knows she wants me out there competing."

Scherzer has won seven straight starts and has an 0.84 ERA over his last nine appearances. On Saturday, he settled in after a 22-pitch first inning and later struck out the side in the seventh inning as Washington won for the ninth time in 11 games.

"I played in Atlanta (with Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine) and those guys they had were pretty good, but what I've seen out of Max is incredible, it really is," manager Dave Martinez said. "I don't know how many games now where he keeps getting better and better as we go along."

Both teams wore throwback uniforms in celebration of their franchise's 50 years since joining Major League Baseball in 1969, with the Nationals wearing the powder blue uniforms of the Montreal Expos.

Kansas City starter Glenn Sparkman (2-5) gave up four runs and nine hits in six innings.

"The way it looked early, they were going to bash his brains in, and he did a nice job of settling down and making pitches," Royals manager Ned Yost said. "I was pleased that he was able to give us six strong."

Alex Gordon had two hits and a walk for the Royals, who have lost eight of 10.

With Washington leading 1-0, Matt Adams walked leading off the second and Suzuki followed with his 11th homer of the season to culminate a 10-pitch at-bat.

Expos Day: Hall of Famer and former Expo Vladimir Guerrero threw out the ceremonial first pitch ... It wasn't the first time in an Expos uniform for Martinez, who caught Guerrero's pitch, and third base coach Bobby Henley. Martinez hit .279 over 3 1/2 seasons with Montreal, and Henley was a teammate of Guerrero's on the 1998 Expos.

Wheels: Scherzer stole his first base of the season and second of his career after a single in the fourth. He was then caught too far off second on Trea Turner's grounder to third for a fielder's choice.



GARY LANDERS/AP

The Indians' Francisco Lindor, right, is congratulated on a solo home run off Reds starting pitcher Anthony DeSclafani by Carlos Santana during the first inning of Saturday's game in Cincinnati. Cleveland won 7-2.

Roundup

All-Stars Bieber, Lindor lead Tribe

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — In a foreboding tone, manager Terry Francona called Shane Bieber to his hotel room to deliver some important news on Cleveland's day off. The faked sternness soon yielded to tears of joy — the second-year pitcher was going to be an All-Star.

First, he had to go pitch like one of the best.

Bieber went eight innings in 90-degree heat on Saturday, and the Indians' All-Stars made their mark in a 7-2 victory over the Cincinnati Reds, their fifth in a row at Great American Ball Park.

The Indians also got a pair of homers from Francisco Lindor, part of their four-player contingent for the All-Star Game in Cleveland on Tuesday. Roberto Perez had four hits, including a tie-breaking two-run shot in the eighth inning.

It was an ideal day for Bieber (8-3), who learned from his manager a day earlier that he'd been picked to replace Texas' Mike Minor on the AL All-Star squad.

"I was pretty shocked and just really excited," Bieber said. "I caught myself getting too excited. ... I was just trying to calm myself down."

Couldn't tell by the results. Bieber gave up four hits in eight innings — three of them by Yaisel Puig, who had a two-run homer.

"The easy line is he pitched like an All-Star," Francona said.



Bieber



SCOTT AUDETTE/AP

Tampa Bay's Travis d'Arnaud reacts after hitting a walkoff home run against the New York Yankees during the ninth inning on Saturday in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Rays 4, Yankees 3: Travis d'Arnaud hit a two-out homer off Chad Green in the bottom of the ninth inning, lifting host Tampa Bay past New York.

It was just the third loss for the Yankees in their last 19 games.

Twins 7, Rangers 4: Michael Pineda struck out a season-high nine in six innings, Jason Castro had two hits and three RBIs, and Minnesota topped visiting Texas.

Marlins 5, Braves 4: Yadiel Rivera hit a go-ahead, two-run single in the fifth and Miami beat host Atlanta for the second time this season.

Orioles 8, Blue Jays 1: Andrew Cashner won his third straight start, Renato Nunez hit a two-run home run and visiting Baltimore beat Toronto.

Astros 4, Angels 0: Yuli Gurriel homered for the fourth straight game and Gerrit Cole pitched seven scoreless innings before two relievers completed the four-hitter that host Houston beat Los Angeles.

Pirates 12, Brewers 2: Kevin Newman and Starling Marte each drove in three runs, leading Pittsburgh over visiting Milwaukee.

Cubs 6, White Sox 3: Jon Lester pitched into the seventh inning, and the visiting Cubs beat All-Star Lucas Giolito and the cross-town White Sox.

Mets 6, Phillies 5: Tomas Nido hit a three-run double that put host New York ahead to stay in a victory over Philadelphia that included four hits batters.

Red Sox 10, Tigers 6: Andrew Benintendi and Mookie Betts finished a homer short of the cycle as visiting Boston beat Detroit in a game delayed more than four hours at the start by rain.

Mariners 6, Athletics 3: Daniel Vogelbach and Kyle Seager hit two-run home runs in the fourth inning, Marco Gonzales won his 10th game and host Seattle beat Oakland.

Giants 8, Cardinals 4: Austin Slater hit a pinch-hit grand slam, San Francisco overcame an early injury to Madison Bumgarner and beat visiting St. Louis.

Padres 3, Dodgers 1: Hunter Renfroe hit his second late-inning home run in as many days and San Diego held on for a win over host Los Angeles.

Diamondbacks 4, Rockies 2: At Phoenix, Jake Lamb hit his first home run in more than a year and Robbie Ray threw six strong innings to lead Arizona over Colorado.

MLB SCOREBOARD

American League

| East Division | | National 6, Royals 0 | | | | | | Mets 6, Phillies 5 | | | | | | Twins 7, Rangers 4 | | | | | | Pirates 12, Brewers 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|----|----------------------|------|-----|--------------------|------------|--------------|--------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|----------|-------|--------------------|--------------|----------|-------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------|---------------|--------------|----------|-------|-----------------|--------------|----------|---|---|---|---|
| Team | W | L | Pct | GB | Kansas City | Washington | Philadelphia | New York | Texas | Minnesota | Philadelphia | New York | Texas | Minnesota | Philadelphia | New York | Texas | Minnesota | Philadelphia | New York | Texas | Minnesota | Philadelphia | New York | Texas | Minnesota | Philadelphia | New York | | | | |
| New York | 31 | 30 | .655 | 7/4 | Merrifield c-f-2 b | 0 | T.Tanner ss | ab | 2 | 0 | McNeil rf | 5 | 1 | 4 | Choo rf | 4 | 1 | 1 | Koper lf | 4 | 0 | 2 | Grandal c | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 3 | | |
| Tampa Bay | 51 | 39 | .567 | 7/4 | Mondesi ss | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Alonso lf | 4 | 0 | 1 | W.Chun lf | 4 | 1 | 1 | Crabbe rf | 3 | 1 | 1 | Martes b3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Boston | 48 | 41 | .539 | 1/4 | A.Gordon 3 b | 0 | Rendon 3 b | 0 | 1 | Cano 2 b | 4 | 0 | 0 | B.Harrer lf | 0 | 1 | 0 | McNeil rf | 3 | 1 | 1 | Marce 4 b | 5 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Toronto | 43 | 42 | .537 | 7/4 | Hicks 3 b | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Brutalm c | 3 | 1 | 2 | D.Jazz 3 b | 1 | 1 | 2 | Crabbe lf | 3 | 1 | 1 | Thames 1 b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Baltimore | 27 | 61 | .307 | 50% | Soler rf | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Knrick 2 b | 4 | 0 | 0 | Bruce lf | 1 | 1 | 2 | Harris 2 b | 4 | 0 | 2 | Odor 2 b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Central Division | | Duda 1 b | | | | | | Harris 2 b | | | | | | Smith 1 b | | | | | | Smith 1 b | | | | | | Cain 1 c | | | | | | |
| Minnesota | 49 | 38 | .563 | 6/4 | Cochrane 2 b | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Adam 1 b2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | D.Smith 2 b | 4 | 1 | 2 | Odor 2 b | 4 | 0 | 0 | Wade Jr 1 b | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cleveland | 49 | 38 | .563 | 6/4 | N.Lopez 2 b | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | V.Ribels 2 b | 1 | 1 | 0 | Arrieta 2 b | 2 | 1 | 0 | Wade Jr 1 b | 3 | 1 | 0 | Schroeder 1 b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chicago | 41 | 44 | .482 | 13% | Jorj 2 b | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Schreier 2 b | 2 | 0 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 2 | 0 | 1 | Wade Jr 1 b | 3 | 1 | 0 | Wade Jr 1 b | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Detroit | 47 | 42 | .528 | 9 | Hicks 3 b | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Rainey 2 b | 0 | 0 | 0 | E.Garcia 2 b | 0 | 0 | 0 | Wade Jr 1 b | 3 | 1 | 0 | Wade Jr 1 b | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kansas City | 30 | 60 | .333 | 27 | Soler rf | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Grace 2 b | 0 | 0 | 0 | R.Sarec 2 b | 0 | 0 | 0 | Wade Jr 1 b | 3 | 1 | 0 | Wade Jr 1 b | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Division | | Totals 32 0 6 | | | | | | Totals 32 6 12 5 | | | | | | Totals 32 7 9 7 | | | | | | Totals 32 7 9 7 | | | | | | Totals 32 7 9 7 | | | | | | |
| Houston | 49 | 41 | .544 | 7/4 | Kingsman 2 b | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Guzman 1 b | 3 | 0 | 1 | Choo rf | 4 | 0 | 0 | Grandal c | 2 | 2 | 0 | Elizalde 2 b | 4 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakland | 49 | 41 | .544 | 7/4 | Solter rf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Hammer 2 b | 0 | 0 | 0 | W.Chun lf | 3 | 1 | 1 | Velich rf | 3 | 1 | 1 | Bryant 2 b | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Texas | 47 | 42 | .528 | 9 | Arrieta 2 b | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Arrieta 2 b | 2 | 1 | 0 | Andrus ss | 4 | 0 | 0 | Velich rf | 3 | 1 | 1 | McNeil rf | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Los Angeles | 34 | 54 | .581 | 18% | E-Soler 2 b | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Arrieta 2 b | 2 | 1 | 0 | Andrus ss | 3 | 0 | 0 | Velich rf | 3 | 1 | 1 | McNeil rf | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Seattle | 39 | 54 | .419 | 19 | E-Soler 2 b | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Arrieta 2 b | 2 | 1 | 0 | Andrus ss | 3 | 0 | 0 | Velich rf | 3 | 1 | 1 | McNeil rf | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

National League

| East Division | | Mariners 6, Athletics 3 | | | | | | Mariners 6, Athletics 3 | | | | | | Astros 4, Angels 0 | | | | | | Cubs 6, White Sox 3 | | | | | | Astros 4, Angels 0 | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------|-----------------------------|------|------|----------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------|-----------|----------------|-------------|-------|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------|-----------|----------------|-------------|-------|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| Team | W | L | Pct | GB | Kansas City | Seattle | Philadelphia | New York | Texas | Minnesota | Philadelphia | New York | Texas | Minnesota | Philadelphia | New York | Texas | Minnesota | Philadelphia | New York | Texas | Minnesota | Philadelphia | New York | Texas | Minnesota | Philadelphia | New York | | | | | | |
| Atlanta | 33 | 37 | .571 | 5/4 | Spurlock 2 b | 6 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Washington | 46 | 42 | .523 | 6/4 | Spurlock 2 b | 6 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Philadelphia | 46 | 49 | .517 | 5/4 | Spurlock 2 b | 6 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| New York | 34 | 54 | .379 | 18% | Spurlock 2 b | 6 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Central Division | | Totals 33 3 6 | | | | | | Totals 33 3 6 | | | | | | Totals 33 6 7 6 | | | | | | Totals 33 6 7 6 | | | | | | Totals 33 6 7 6 | | | | | | | | |
| Chicago | 47 | 43 | .528 | 12/4 | Spurlock 2 b | 6 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Detroit | 47 | 43 | .528 | 12/4 | Spurlock 2 b | 6 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Cincinnati | 41 | 45 | .477 | 4/2 | Spurlock 2 b | 6 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | Arrieta 2 b | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| West Division | | Totals 24-44 28-76 (41,313) | | | | | | Totals 24-44 28-76 (41,313) | | | | | | Totals 24-44 28-76 (41,313) | | | | | | Totals 24-44 28-76 (41,313) | | | | | | Totals 24-44 28-76 (41,313) | | | | | | | | |
| Kansas City | 7 | 7 | 1 | 11 | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | |
| Baltimore | 4,000 | 4,000 | 100 | 100 | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | |
| Baltimore | 4,000 | 4,000 | 100 | 100 | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | |
| Baltimore | 4,000 | 4,000 | 100 | 100 | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | |
| Baltimore | 4,000 | 4,000 | 100 | 100 | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | |
| Baltimore | 4,000 | 4,000 | 100 | 100 | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | |
| Baltimore | 4,000 | 4,000 | 100 | 100 | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | |
| Baltimore | 4,000 | 4,000 | 100 | 100 | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | |
| Baltimore | 4,000 | 4,000 | 100 | 100 | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | |
| Baltimore | 4,000 | 4,000 | 100 | 100 | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | |
| Baltimore | 4,000 | 4,000 | 100 | 100 | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | | Friday's games | | | | | |
| Baltimore | 4,000 | 4,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

NHL/NBA

Make me an offer

Offer sheets are few and far between so restricted free agents basically untouchable

BY LARRY LAGE

Associated Press

Some of the NHL's best, young players are available.

Technically.

Mitch Marner, Brayden Point and Jacob Trouba are just a few of the restricted free agents in a bumper crop.

Every team in the league would like to add any of those players this summer. However, it would be a big surprise in the NHL if any team tries to sign them away.

The Montreal Canadiens became the first franchise in six years to extend an offer sheet to a restricted free agent earlier this week, hoping the Carolina Hurricanes would pass on matching the \$42 million, five-year deal for Sebastian Aho. Less than 24 hours later, Hurricanes general manager Don Waddell announced the franchise was going to keep its star forward.

Drafting and developing play-

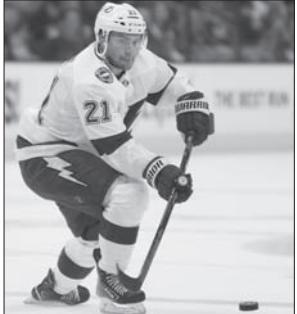
ers is what NHL teams attempt to do well as they chase the Stanley Cup, certainly in the salary cap era. And, that is one of the reasons teams are reluctant to extend offer sheets to restricted free agents.

"The way the system is set up with offer sheets, it's too punitive because of the draft picks you have to give up," said sports agent Kurt Overhardt, who represents Trouba. "The record has shown it doesn't make sense for a lot of teams. Montreal took a chance, forcing a notoriously frugal owner to make a decision and he matched. But as long as you have the cap space, you have to match."

If Carolina chose not to match the offer for Aho, the Canadiens would have given up a draft pick in the first, second and third rounds. If Montreal offered a little more money on the offer sheet, it risked losing an additional first-round selection. And if the franchise offered Aho an average of at least \$10,568,590 over the course

The way the system is set up with offer sheets, it's too punitive because of the draft picks you have to give up. The record has shown it doesn't make sense for a lot of teams.'

Kurt Overhardt
sports agent



Tampa Bay's Brayden Point is among the crop of restricted free agents every NHL team in the league would like to add any.

JAY LAPRETE/AP



FRANK GUNN, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Toronto Maple Leafs center Mitch Marner, Brayden Point and Jacob Trouba are among a bumper crop of restricted free agents. As good as they are, they will likely end up being re-signed rather than extended an offer sheet by another NHL team.

of the contract, it would have lost four first-round picks if the Hurricanes refused to pay Aho that much.

Agents of restricted free agents attempt to use the possibility of offer sheets in negotiations. Teams, meanwhile, know offer sheets are extremely uncommon and they seem to have the power in talks. That is true particularly when players don't have arbitration rights.

"As an RFA you just want to be paid what you feel your value is and the offer sheet is one of a few points of leverage you can use," Winnipeg Jets center Andrew Copp said. "It's more important to have arbitration rights, but you only have so many options as a restricted player so it can be frustrating not being able to use one of your options."

Detroit Red Wings general manager Steve Yzerman said it's tough to predict if Montreal's move would be made by another team this summer.

"There's obviously several very

high-profile, very good, young players out there," Yzerman said. "If this is a trend, I really don't know. I'm curious to see how it plays out."

As good as Marner, Point and Trouba are, they will likely end up being re-signed rather than extended an offer sheet.

The salary cap-squeezed Toronto Maple Leafs recently made moves to free up money to re-sign the 22-year-old Marner. The third-year center ranked fourth in the NHL with 68 assists and was just outside of the top 10 in the league with 94 points last season.

Tampa Bay does not appear to have a lot of money to spend, with stars Nikita Kucherov and Steven Stamkos counting \$18 million per year against the salary cap, but it will want to find a way to keep the 23-year-old Point. The center had 92 points last season and has 198 in his three years in the NHL.

The New York Rangers acquired Trouba in a trade with

Winnipeg even though they would have to sign the offensive-minded defenseman as a restricted free agent. The Rangers invested a lot in free agent Artemi Panarin, giving him \$81.5 million over seven years this week, and don't seem worried about an offer sheet making negotiations more challenging with Trouba.

"Restricted is the emphasized word in restricted free agency," said agent Brian Bartlett, whose clients include restricted free agent Will Butcher, who had 74 points in two seasons as a New Jersey Devils defenseman. "The teams know it's unlikely and yet with Aho, it probably helped move negotiations along because you would assume Carolina didn't offer the same structure in its contract offer."

"There's always the opportunity for an offer sheet, but it has happened once every six years and the odds are against it happening more when you consider the thousands of players who have been restricted free agents."

Williamson out for summer league with bruised knee

BY TIM REYNOLDS

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Zion Williamson's summer league is over.

The New Orleans Pelicans announced Saturday that the No. 1 pick in this year's NBA draft will not play any more at the Summer League in Las Vegas because of a bruised left knee. The team stressed the move is precautionary.

"Zion will move forward from this incident without issue," Pelicans Executive Vice President of Basketball Operations David Griffin said. "However, in an abundance of caution, we have made the determination that he will not appear in game action for the remainder of the NBA Summer League."

Williamson's presence helped the Summer League sell out its opening day Friday and reach another sellout Saturday — when he was scheduled to play in his second game of the summer against Washington.

Instead, he was watching from the bench area in a polo shirt and not a jersey. That'll be his game-time role until the NBA pre-season starts in October.

Every seat in the lower bowl of the Thomas & Mack Center was taken Friday night for Williamson's debut. That wasn't the case Saturday, when a generous estimate might have been that two-thirds of the seats were taken even though all were sold.

When the Pelicans announced that Williamson's summer was over, it had a quick impact on the resale markets: Tickets that

were going for more than \$300 apiece on Friday for the session that included the Pelicans' game against No. 3 pick RJ Barrett and the New York Knicks were available for under \$100 on Saturday.

Williamson scored 11 points in nine minutes of his debut game against New York. But he took a knee-to-knee hit in the first half and was ruled out at halftime of a game that was eventually shortened after the governors of an earthquake were felt in Las Vegas.

Williamson, who starred at Duke in his lone college season, is expected to remain with the team in Las Vegas for the duration of the tournament.

"He will continue to take part in training and conditioning with our performance team," Griffin said.



DAVID BECKER/AP

Zion Williamson, left, sits on the Pelicans' bench during the first half of a summer league game on Saturday in Las Vegas.

WIMBLEDON

Serena 2-for-2 with singles, doubles wins

No. 11 Williams looks strong heading into second week of play

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — Serena Williams walked into her news conference at Wimbledon holding her phone, a cold bottle of water and a statistics sheet that reinforced what was clear from watching her third-round singles victory Saturday:

She is as close to being back to her best as she's been in a while.

Williams, hampered for much of this season by injuries or illness, took a step forward against 18th-seeded Julia Goerges, a powerful hitter in her own right who lost to the American in last year's semifinals at the All England Club. Sure enough, Williams hit serves at up to 120 mph, put in a tournament-best 71 percent of her first serves, never faced so much as one break point and won 6-3, 6-4.

"It's been an arduous year for me," said Williams, who had competed only 12 times in 2019 until this week, mostly because of a bothersome left knee that finally is pain-free. "So every match, I'm hoping to play more tons."

Maybe it was a good thing she played twice Saturday, then.

About 4½ hours after getting past Goerges at No. 1 Court, Williams headed out to Centre Court for her much-ballyhooed debut as Andy Murray's teammate in mixed doubles. Other than one slip near the net when she lost her footing in the first set — she was fine and laughed it off — Williams looked good during the 6-4, 6-1 win against Andreas Mies and Alexa Guarachi, including smacking one serve at 122 mph, equaling the fastest hit in singles by any woman (her, naturally) during the tournament.

"Andy and I both love the competition. I know we both want to do well," Williams said. "We're not here just for show."

She rarely is.

But if Williams is going to win an eighth singles championship at Wimbledon, and a record-tying 24th Grand Slam singles title overall, she will want more performances like the one she gave against Goerges.

Forcible, yes, but nothing was forced.

"I play pretty good when I'm calm, but also super-intense, just finding the balance in between there," the 37-year-old Williams said. "So it's a hard balance to find, because sometimes when I'm too calm, I don't have enough energy. Still trying to find that balance."

Two more key stats on the paper she brought to her media session: She produced more winners than unforced errors, 19-15, while Goerges finished with 32 forced errors, a reflection of just how difficult Williams can make it for opponents to handle shots



PHOTOS BY TIM IRELAND/AP

Top: Serena Williams, left, plays a shot in front of partner Andy Murray on Saturday. Williams will face No. 30 Carla Suarez Navarro when play resumes on Monday. **Above:** Roger Federer returns to Lucas Pouille on Saturday. Federer won 7-5, 6-2, 7-6 (4), advancing to the fourth round at Wimbledon for a record 17th time.

she sends their way.

Goerges credited Williams with causing havoc with her returns, as well.

After averaging 10 aces in the first two rounds, Goerges was limited to half that many.

Of more significance, perhaps, was that Williams' string replies to serves immediately put her in control of points.

"It's fair to say that she builds up enormous pressure with her returns," Goerges said. "That means I need to go to the limit in

my service games."

After the traditional middle Sunday off, action resumes Monday with all four-round men's and women's singles matches.

Williams, who is seeded 11th, will face No. 30 Carla Suarez Navarro, while the other matchups on the top half of the women's field established Saturday are No. 1 Ash Barty, who has a 15-match winning streak, against unseeded Alison Riske of the U.S., No. 21 Elise Mertens against Barbora Strycova; and two-time champion

'Andy (Murray) and I both love the competition. I know we both want to do well. We're not here just for show.'

—Serena Williams

on playing mixed doubles. Williams and Murray defeated Andreas Mies and Alexa Guarachi 6-4, 6-1 on Saturday, just 4½ hours after she defeated No. 18 Julia Goerges 6-3, 6-4 in singles competition.

Petra Kvitova against No. 19 Johanna Konta of Britain.

On the bottom half, it will be the 15-year-old American sensation Coco Gauff vs. No. 7 Simona Halep, No. 3 Karolina Pliskova vs. Karolina Muchova; No. 8 Elina Svitolina vs. No. 24 Petra Martic; and Dayana Yastremska vs. Shuai Zhang.

In the men's draw, eight-time champion Roger Federer and two-time winner Rafael Nadal both won in straight sets Saturday to move closer to a semifinal showdown. Federer's record 17th visit to the fourth round at Wimbledon will come against No. 17 Matteo Berrettini, an Italian never before this far at the grass-court tournament.

"For me, I'm very happy how it's going so far," said Federer, a 7-5, 6-2, 7-6 (4) winner over No. 27 Lucas Pouille. "I hope it's going to take a special performance from somebody to stop me, not just a mediocre performance."

Nadal, who defeated Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-2, 6-3, 6-2, meets an unseeded opponent next, either Dan Evans or Joao Sousa. No. 8 Kei Nishikori meets

Mikhail Kukushkin, and Sam Querrey plays Tennys Sandgren in the first Week 2 matchup at Wimbledon between two Americans who can meet since Pete Sampras beat Jan-Michael Gambill in the 2000 quarterfinals.

Kukushkin's four-set victory over Jan-Lennard Struff at Court 12 was interrupted when a 60-year-old female spectator had to be resuscitated after collapsing.

Sandgren beat No. 12 Fabio Fognini 6-3, 7-6 (12), 6-3 at tiny Court 14, with its 318 seating capacity. Fognini unleashed a tirade at the woman at one moment, saying he wanted a bomb to explode at the All England Club. He later said his comments came in the heat of the moment because he was upset about not playing well and the condition of the court's grass.

"If I offended anyone, I apologize," said the volatile Fognini, who was fined \$27,500 at Wimbledon in 2014 for unsportsmanlike conduct and is in a Grand Slam probationary period after getting kicked out of the 2017 U.S. Open. "That definitely wasn't my intention."

UFC/TOUR DE FRANCE

Jones squeaks out decision, Nunes wins big at UFC 239

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS—Amanda Nunes won in spectacular fashion. Jon Jones barely hung on.

Both champions still emerged from UFC 239 with their belts around their waists.

Nunes stopped Holly Holm late in the first round to defend her bantamweight title, and Jones squeaked out a split-decision victory over Thiago Santos to defend his light heavyweight title on Saturday night.

A two-division champion on a nine-fight winning streak, Nunes (18-4) remained the pound-for-pound ruler of her sport with her usual devastating flair. After she floored Holm (12-5) with a perfectly timed kick to the head, she mercilessly finished Holm with punches on the ground with 50 seconds left in the first round.

"I told my coaches I wanted to knock her out the same way she knocks people out," Nunes said of her opponent, an accomplished kickboxer. "I did it tonight. She was the only former champion I didn't beat yet. Now I beat her, and I'm very happy."

Jones (25-1) had much more trouble with Santos (21-7), who nearly scrapped his way to victory despite injuring his left knee early in the fight. Jones fought cautiously and earned a 48-47 decision on two of the three judges' scorecards.

"He implemented a game plan I think a lot of people have wanted to for a very long time," Jones said. "He did a good job. He exploited a hole in my game that won't be there next time."

Until Jones' tactical victory, UFC 239 was all about violence.

Jorge Masvidal knocked out previously unbeaten Ben Askren with a sensational flying knee just 5 seconds into their bout on a card peppered with jaw-dropping finishes until Jones' decision.

Jan Blachowicz also knocked out Luke Rockhold with a devastating left hand in the second round of ex-champ Rockhold's light heavyweight debut.

Nunes took a few minutes to find her groove against Holm, who famously knocked out Ronda Rousey with a head kick nearly four years ago. When Nunes felt comfortable, she unleashed a sophisticated array of strikes and eventually caught Holm with a kick that sent her straight to the canvas.

Nunes completed the knockout with punches, sending Holm to her fifth loss in seven fights.

After her fourth successful bantamweight defense, Nunes said she wants to defend the 145-pound belt next. UFC President Dana White is trying to book a rematch with long-reigning featherweight champion Cris "Cyborg" Justino, who lasted just 51 seconds against Nunes in December.

"This woman is tough, man," White said of Nunes. "She's unbelievable. Pound for pound, one of the greatest of all time. But there

will be somebody next."

Jones was a significant favorite against Santos, a longtime middleweight who moved up in weight last year. But Santos' power and energy caused problems for Jones from the opening minutes, forcing the champion to be cautious and to use his superior length.

"We all knew Thiago's best chance was to knock me out," Jones said. "I played it smart and brought home this gold for my family and team. He was technically a lot more sound than I thought. Thiago Santos is a black belt in Muay Thai. I'm proud of myself, because I stood with a guy who's been kickboxing way longer than me."

Santos landed several significant strikes in the first round, but Jones briefly floored the challenger with a big kick in the second.



ERIC JAMISON/AP

Jon Jones, right, lands a kick on Thiago Santos during their light heavyweight mixed martial arts bout at UFC 239 on Saturday in Las Vegas. Jones won by split decision.

"I thought I hit him more and out-pointed him, but with my knee like that, it was all I could do," Santos said. "I knew it was a very close fight. In the condition I was in, I thought I fought a good fight."

Jones found his rhythm midway through the fight, using his size to keep Santos away. Santos

also hurt his knee along the way, although he kept striking even while he struggled for balance.

"I felt like I was winning, so there was no need to take him down," Jones said. "We were playing a very high level game of chess in there."

Masvidal (34-13) played a less complicated game to get his star-making finish.

Masvidal authored one of the most dramatic knockouts in UFC history when he destroyed Askren (19-1), a high-level wrestler in his second UFC fight after a prosperous career in other promotions. Masvidal and Askren had an intense personal rivalry heading into the fight, exchanging voluminous trash talk rooted in years of mutual dislike.

After listening to the opening bell while touching his own fence, Masvidal took three running steps out of his corner and sailed directly into the face of Askren, who had ducked for a wrestling takedown. The knee landed flush, and Askren was unconscious.

Masvidal then landed two punches to the defenseless Askren's head before the referee could stop the bout after only 5 seconds. Masvidal then celebrated in the cage while Askren struggled for several minutes to gain coherence.

"I'm glad I got to end that dude, man," Masvidal said. "He's so predictable. He's a scrub ... It was like, 'Come and eat.' He probably thought he was going to get a three-piece (dinner). Nah, you're getting a whole MGM Grand buffet to the face, man."



STEVE MARCUS, LAS VEGAS SUN/AP

Amanda Nunes of Brazil lands a kick on Holly Holm that knocked her to the mat in the first round of their bantamweight title mixed martial arts bout during UFC 239 in Las Vegas on Saturday. Nunes won in the first round.

Teunissen keeps yellow jersey after team time trial

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

BRUSSELS—Dutch rider Mike Teunissen kept the Tour de France yellow jersey after his Jumbo-Visma squad outclassed rivals to win Sunday's team time trial.

Putting on a well-choreographed display in the streets of Brussels, the Dutch team's riders covered the 27.6-kilometer (17.1-mile) flat stage in 28 minutes, 58 seconds — 20 seconds faster than defending champion Geraint Thomas' Ineos team.

Deceuninck Quick-Step completed the podium, 21 seconds off the pace.

Teunissen, the first Dutch rider to wear the race leader's jersey in 30 years, was a surprise winner of Saturday's opening leg that was marred by a crash near the finish.

As the first-placed squad on the team classification, Jumbo-Visma rolled down last from the starting ramp near Brussels' Royal Palace. In perfect weather conditions, they posted the best time at both intermediate points on the very flat course going through Woluwe-Saint-Pierre — five-time champion Eddy Merckx's childhood home — and leading to the Atomium, the iconic Brussels monument built for the

1958 World Fair.

Surrounded by teammates best-suited for the flat terrain, including former time trial world champion Tony Martin, Teunissen was up to the task too, taking solid turns at the front in his aerodynamic skin-suit and helmet.

"We heard that we were fastest ... We were flying, it was unbelievable," Teunissen said. "It's not that I'm getting used to winning stages at the Tour de France but it's two out of two now and it's really, really nice."

Teunissen now leads teammate Wout Van Aert by 10 seconds in the general clas-

sification, with another Jumbo-Visma rider Steven Kruijswijk in third place.

With the No. 1 bib on his back, Thomas showed no signs of weakness following his crash in the opening stage and was happy with his team's second place.

"I feel really good today. We got a good speed and we managed to hold onto it," Thomas said. "We could have taken some curves faster but that was a minimal loss."

After two days in Belgium, the peloton will enter France during Monday's Stage 3 which leads riders from the Belgian town of Binche to Epernay in the Champagne region.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP



FRANCISCO SECO/AP

The United States' Carli Lloyd lifts the trophy at the end of the Women's World Cup final against The Netherlands at the Stade de Lyon in Decines, outside Lyon, France, on Sunday. The U.S. defeated the Netherlands 2-0 for its second straight title and record fourth overall.

Title: Rapinoe converts another penalty kick, Lavelle also scores in win

FROM BACK PAGE

Two days past her 34th birthday, Rapinoe slotted the ball past goalkeeper Sari van Veenendaal for her sixth goal of the tournament to win the Golden Boot as scoring leader. The oldest player to score in a Women's World Cup final, she struck a familiar victorious pose with arms outstretched.

"It's surreal. I don't know how to feel like now. It's ridiculous," Rapinoe said. "We're crazy and that's what makes us so special. We just have no quit in us. We're so tight, and we'll do anything to win."

Lavelle, at 24 the team's up-and-coming star, added her third goal of the tournament on an 18-foot left-footed shot in the 69th after a solo run up the center of the field.

"She's superstar, not even in the making, she's straight up superstar at this point," Rapinoe said.

Fans, many dressed in red, white and blue, chanted "Equal Pay!" at the final whistle, a reminder players sued the U.S. Soccer Federation in March claiming gender discrimination.

Rapinoe drew the ire of U.S. President Donald Trump during the tournament by saying she and teammates would refuse to visit the White House, part of the team's wider push for gender equity. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio needed just a few seconds after the final whistle to invite the team to a ticker-tape parade up the Canyon on Heroes in Manhattan.

tan on Wednesday.

The Americans never trailed in the tournament and set records with 26 goals and a 12-game World Cup winning streak dating to 2015. U.S. coach Jill Ellis became the first coach to lead a team to two Women's World Cup titles, and the U.S. joined Germany in 2003 and 2007 as the only repeat champions.

"It's just chemistry. They put their hearts and soul into this journey," Ellis said. "They made history."

FIFA president Gianni Infantino handed over the trophy, a stark contrast to four years ago in Canada, when then-president Sepp Blatter was a no-show as U.S. prosecutors investigated corruption in soccer's governing body.

With confidence and brashness that some called even arrogant — triggering a backlash that the angry response was sexist — this American team established a standard of excellence that exceeded the American champions of 1991, 1999 and 2015, becoming a goal for other U.S. teams and the rest of the world to match. Former American players joined the current generation on the field for the post-game celebration.

Alyssa Naeher, the 31-year-old who succeeded Hope Solo in goal, faced repeated questions entering the tournament but allowed just three goals in the tournament and finished with her fourth shutout.

The U.S. had scored within the first 12 min-

utes of its previous six matches in the tournament but the European champions sat back to keep their defensive shape and kept the score 0-0 through the first half.

Video review, adopted by FIFA for the men's World Cup last year, showed its impact when Stephanie Frappart, the first woman to referee a men's Ligue 1 match, went to the screen at the side of the field and then signaled toward the spot.

Rapinoe, who missed Tuesday's semifinal win over England with a hamstring injury, became the first woman to score on a penalty kick during a Women's World Cup final, her 50th goal in 158 international appearances. She matched teammate Alex Morgan and England's Ellen White for most goals in the tournament and won the Golden Ball based on fewer minutes.

Rapinoe was given a standing ovation by the crowd when she subbed out in the 79th minute. The crowd of 57,900 at Stade de Lyon for Le Grand Finale included French President Emmanuel Macron.

The Americans opened the tournament with a record 13-0 rout of lowly Thailand, triggering debate over whether the celebrations after each goal were excessive. Morgan responded the next match by following a goal with a polite golf clap. Then she stirred it up again when she scored against England with a tea cup, pinkeye outstretched.

Scoreboard

Sunday

US, Netherlands 0

Lyons, France
0-0

Netherlands
0-0
United States 1, United States, Megan

Rapinoe 6, penalty kick, 61st minute; 2,

United States, Rose Lavelle 3 (Samantha

Johnson 6, 89th), 17, Netherlands

6. Shoots on goal—United States 9, Netherlands 1.

Yellow Cards—United States, Abby

Dahlkemper, 41st, Netherlands, Sherida

Spieren, 10th; Stefanie Van der Gragt,

60th.

Offsides—United States 3, Nether-

lands 7.

Fouls—United States 9, Nether-

lands 7.

Corner Kicks—United States 8, Nether-

lands 2.

A—57,900.

Lineups

United States: Alyssa Naeher; Abby

Dahlkemper, Crystal Dunn, Kelley O'Hara

(Ali Krieger, 46th), Becky Sauerbrunn; Ju-

lia Goh, Sam Mewis, Morgan Brian, Tobin Heath (Carli Lloyd, 87th), Alex Mor-

gan, Megan Rapinoe (Christen Press,

90th).

Netherlands: Sari Van Veenendaal;

Emilie Bloodwood, Bouk Dekker

(Giovanna Van Es, 73rd), Deanne

Van Lunteren, Stefanie Van der Gragt;

Jackie Groenen, Sherida Spitse, Danielle

de Donk; Lineth Beerensteyn, Lieke

de Winter (Jill Roord, 71st), Vivianne Mi-

edema.

SPORTS



Serena going strong
Williams appears to be in top form heading into fourth round » Page 29



Strike a pose

US wins 2nd straight Women's World Cup title

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

The United States won its record fourth Women's World Cup title and second in a row, beating the Netherlands 2-0 Sunday night when Megan Rapinoe converted a penalty kick in

the second half and Rose Lavelle added a goal.

Rapinoe, the pink-haired U.S. captain who grabbed world-wide attention on and off the field, scored in the 61st minute after a video review determined Stefanie van der Gragt had fouled Alex Morgan with a kick to the shoulder in the penalty area.

SEE TITLE ON PAGE 31

Top: The United States' Megan Rapinoe, front, celebrates with Alex Morgan after scoring the opening goal on a penalty kick during the Women's World Cup final. **Right:** The U.S. team celebrates with trophy after defeating the Netherlands 2-0 for the Women's World Cup on Sunday. It is the United States' record fourth Women's World Cup victory.

PHOTOS BY FRANCISCO SECO, TOP, AND ALESSANDRA TARANTINO, RIGHT/AP



Nunes dominates, Jones holds on at UFC 239 » Page 30

